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NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.85)

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A professor goes underground

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Face-lifts for Nazareth, Bethlehem

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Lions roar, Jets stall

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5 charged in bridge disaster

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK and ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Five people were charged with negligent homicide in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the July 14 collapse of the footbridge at the Ramat Gan sports stadium at the opening of the Maccabiah Games.

The accident claimed the lives of four Australian athletes and injured dozens.

The five people charged are Micha Bar-Ilan, the engineer who designed the bridge; contractors Yehoshua Ben-Ezra and Baruch

Charges called 'small step in right direction,' Page 5

Karagula, who built the bridge; Adam Mishori, managing director of the Irgunit company, which employed the contractors; and Yoram Eyal, who was chairman of the Maccabiah Games organizing committee. Eyal resigned on Sunday.

In the 11-page indictment, the five are charged with negligent homicide, inflicting bodily harm by negligence, and building without a permit.

According to the indictment, the bridge was constructed within two weeks - too short a period to appropriately plan and design a bridge. Construction was carried out without all the construction plans, without proper supervision, and by people who had no experience in building bridges.

The bridge was designed to hold a load of 250 kilograms per sq.m., half the burden required, the indictment said.

Meanwhile, the rift between Maccabi Australia and the World Maccabi Union seemed to widen, as Maccabi Australia president Tom Goldman expressed his "disappointment" at the world organization's continued handling of the aftermath of the bridge collapse.

Goldman did not rule out the possibility that Australia might pull out of the worldwide sports organization.

Meanwhile, world union president Ronald Bakalarz said the organization is "fully confident" that Eyal will be found innocent.

"It was a tragic accident, but it was an accident," Bakalarz said. "Accidents occur in this country many accidents occur, but I don't see people resigning or stepping down all over the place. Two helicopters crashed... and 73 soldiers were killed, but I didn't hear anyone calling for the resignation of the prime minister or the defense minister."

The two officials spoke at a press conference following a two-day emergency meeting of the Presidents' Forum of World Maccabi. At the meeting, demands by Maccabi Australia were considered, including requests for the resignation of those associated with the five charged in Maccabiah bridge collapse and the appointment of an independent committee of inquiry.

These requests were only partly fulfilled. The presidents accepted Eyal's resignation and that of Itamar Herman, the chairman of the North American desk, who had been responsible for the opening ceremonies at which the disaster occurred.

However, the committee ruled that it would not consider accepting the resignation of Uzi Natanel, chairman of the Maccabi World Union, should be offered it - a move the Australians had asked for.

Nor did the presidents agree to appoint an independent investigating committee. Instead, they initiated an internal investigation by a "fact-finding" commission headed by Judge Yitzhak Baraz, which will report to the next World Maccabi Union meetings in May.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu listens to a high-tech factory worker in Ofakim explain her job yesterday. He promised to create 300 jobs in the Negev town beset by unemployment. (AP)

No-confidence bid foiled by tie

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

The Knesset yesterday defeated a motion of no confidence in the prime minister over the unemployment situation by a dramatic tie of 44-44. Although the motion would have needed a 61 MK majority to pass, the tie is seen as a slap in the face for the government.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of unemployed demonstrators greeted Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Ofakim yesterday with boos and chants of "Bibi go home," despite his promise to create some 300 new jobs in the Negev town.

Yesterday's vote followed a particularly long response on the government's behalf by Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, who played for time in the absence of coalition MKs. Many of the Likud MKs were at the World Likud convention during the debate, a party spokeswoman said.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai left the plenum before the vote, to protest the closure of the Gabor Sabrina textile company. Netanyahu convened a high-level meeting late last night to discuss ways to save the company.

In his reply to the Meretz and Hadash no-confidence motion,

Shalom said the government had decided to allocate NIS 120 million to fight unemployment by creating between 15,000 and 18,000 jobs.

"We saw [Labor Party leader] Ehud Barak running off to Ofakim, not to provide jobs but to smear the

MKs fail to approve state budget, Page 2
Gabor Sabrina to shut down, Page 13

government's name. He should examine where the roots of the unemployment are to be found," said Shalom.

He said the slowdown in the economy started in 1995 and that the Labor government had a budget deficit of NIS 14 billion a year. Without drastic budget cuts, the situation would be "catastrophic," he said. He would be the prime minister in the past week has taken action to create 700 jobs and treat the specific problems of Ofakim.

Meretz whip Haim Oron accused Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman of "running away while unemployment grows by the hour."

He noted that over 1,000 workers

had lost their jobs at Gabor Sabrina, when only NIS 2 million are needed for the company to remain open.

"This is a hardhearted government, which increases the travel allowance of the prime minister and his wife, which throws around money for the jubilee festivities, and which throws money at the settlements, but is not prepared to give to the development towns."

He later said the tie vote was not a coincidence, but revealed the coalition crisis over the budget. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid described the vote as the government's dying breath.

Barak told the Labor faction that during his visit to Ofakim he "got the impression that Ofakim residents are not willing to be suckers any more. I got the impression they had noted who had harmed their dignity and livelihoods."

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat called the government's decision not to guarantee an NIS 2 million loan to save Gabor Sabrina "scandalous."

Netanyahu was accompanied by several ministers and the ministerial committee of directors-general on his visit to Ofakim, a Likud bastion whose official unemployment rate is 14.3%.

See VOTE, Page 2

New law eases reservists' burden

By LIAT COLLINS

Reservists today can stand at ease - or at least breathe easier - after the Knesset last night finally passed, after some four years, a bill by MK Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) which reduces reserve duty and lowers the age at which they can no longer be called to serve.

The bill was passed by a unanimous 24 votes, after which MKs toasted its passage with a glass of wine in the Knesset canteen.

Under the new law, some provisions of which are already being implemented and some of which will come into force on January 1:

- Combat reservists above 41 will not be called for service.
- Most reservists cannot be called for more than 36 days a year, including 25 days' active service, five days' training, and six single days.
- Reservists who serve over the quota will receive extra financial

compensation.

Blanket emergency call-up orders (Tzav 8) will be abolished, except for special cases approved by the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. There will also be parliamentary supervision of the organization of reserve duty.

Under the law, an employee cannot be fired or discriminated against for being absent on reserve duty. Students who miss exams because of service will have to be provided with another sitting.

"The law represents a revolution regarding reserve duty and will contribute to the more equitable distribution of the burden and raise the motivation of those who do reserve duty," Cohen said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also welcomed the bill when it came up in the plenum.

Cohen said the law will save the economy an estimated NIS 500 million a year.

Intel boss named 'Man of the Year'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Andrew Grove, a Jew who survived the Nazi occupation of Hungary and the Soviet invasion of Budapest and went on to become the chairman of Intel, has been named *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year."

In a profile entitled "A Survivor's Tale," *Time* said Grove "has been pushed by a will to live as other men are fired by a taste for power or money." Grove's mantra, the magazine said, is: "Only the paranoid survive."

In honoring Grove, *Time* called Intel the "essential firm of the digital age," with a "stranglehold on one of the transformative technologies of the 20th century."

See INTEL, Page 2

The guilt that doesn't fade

IT'S NO ACCIDENT

By Larry Dorfner

Eyal (not his real name) does not remember flipping the car and being thrown from the driver's seat. He got off with only bruises. A 20-year-old woman soldier was also thrown out of the car, but she landed on her head and was killed.

It happened three and a half years ago. The accident and the five days that followed are a black hole in Eyal's memory.

Now a student in the Tel Aviv area, he was a 19-year-old IDF driver at the time. Afterwards, he suffered what could be called a nervous breakdown. At times he would simply collapse. During

furloughs he would go to Jerusalem, where the dead soldier, whom he'd known pretty well, had lived. He'd walk the streets in hope of finding her. One day he got up the courage to go to her home. He asked her mother's forgiveness. The moth-

er refused.

"I learned that the only way to overcome pain is to replace it with a greater pain," says Eyal, a soft-spoken, vulnerable-looking young man. He began cutting his body with a knife, and smashing his fists and feet into the wall. He planned to commit suicide, and wrote a number of suicide notes, but never went through with it.

"I didn't want to cause my family any more suffering," he explains. "I was afraid that if I killed myself, my pain and guilt would be passed onto them."

See ACCIDENT, Page 5

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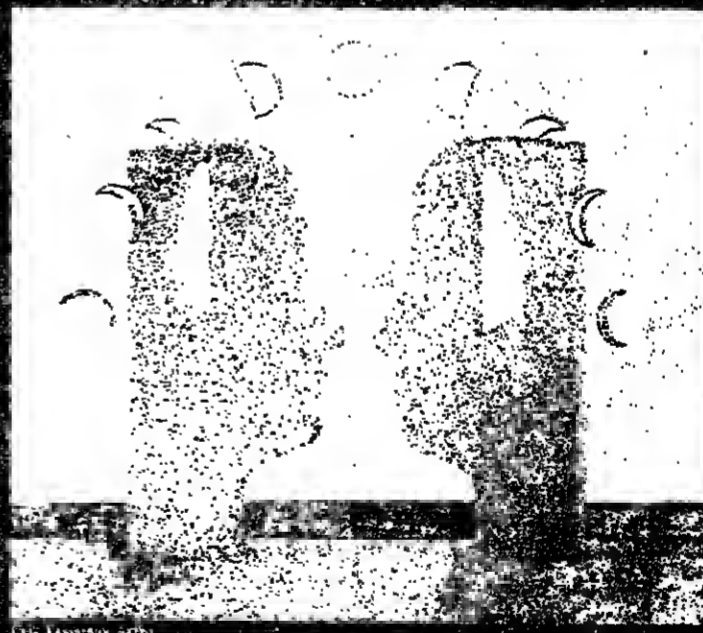
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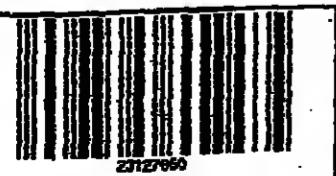


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NEWS

in brief

PM doesn't plan to advance elections

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has no intention of advancing elections, according to a statement issued by the prime minister's bureau yesterday. Yesterday morning, Israel Radio played back a reply Netanyahu had given the night before to Channel 2 interviewer Ilana Dayan. In it, he was heard talking about elections perhaps being held "in a few months' time."

But the radio failed to broadcast the question and the premier's entire answer, which was that he "doesn't believe that early elections will take place" but that he is "not afraid of losing to Labor's Ehud Barak in any scenario. Even early elections would not be held immediately, but in a few months' time and I am confident I will win," he said. The statement stressed that Netanyahu was answering "a question about various political hypotheses and this should not be construed to signify a desire on his part to initiate early elections." Sarah Honig

Three SLA soldiers wounded in south Lebanon

Three South Lebanese Army soldiers were lightly wounded in a long-range mortar attack on their outpost in the western sector of the security zone yesterday.

The gunman, believed to be from Hizbullah or its Shi'ite rival Amal, also fired mortars at an IDF position in the same area.

There were no casualties in that incident, although one of the mortar rounds scored a direct hit on the compound, causing some structural damage. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

On Saturday a SLA soldier was lightly wounded when an explosive device was detonated alongside the civilian car in which he was driving near Kafr Haneh in the Jezzine enclave, north of the security zone. David Rudge

Bentsur reassures Moratinos

European Union peace envoy Miguel Moratinos was reassured yesterday by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur that Israel hopes he will continue with his mission. A source disclosed, however, that the Spanish diplomat was criticized during intensive deliberations about his peacemaking mission conducted by senior members of the ministry staff. He said Moratinos was described as having adopted "an unbalanced position."

Moratinos contacted Bentsur immediately after this was leaked to the news media. He learned from a radio report that influential members of the Foreign Ministry were dissatisfied with the EU's stand on the Middle East dispute, especially as reflected in the newly-adopted Luxembourg Declaration. Jay Bushinsky

Israel confirms naval venture with US and Turkey

Israel confirmed yesterday that its much talked about trilateral naval maneuvers with Turkey and the United States will be held on January 7 in international waters in the eastern Mediterranean. Both Israel and Turkey have rebuffed criticism from Arab states and have stressed that the maneuvers are strictly a search and rescue operation exercise. The US Embassy in Tel Aviv said the USS John Rodgers would participate. Israel said Turkey and the Israeli navy each would send two ships.

Helicopters also are expected to participate. Turkey has said the exercise, dubbed "Reliant Mermaid," will last from January 5-9, but the IDF issued a statement yesterday saying that the exercise would last only one day. The Turkish ships will spend most of the time at the navy port in Haifa. Arieh O'Sullivan

Beilin off to Jordan

Labor MK Yossi Beilin is scheduled to visit Jordan today. He is the first opposition MK to make an official visit there since the Mashal Affair. He was invited by Crown Prince Hassan to discuss the negotiations with Palestinians on the interim agreement and permanent arrangements as well as Israeli-Jordanian relations from the opposition's viewpoint.

He also is expected to meet with the Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister. Liat Collins

Eskin's lawyer appealing to see client

The lawyer for right-wing activist Avigdor Eskin is to appeal a court ruling barring Eskin from meeting with him.

"The official reason is that if he meets with his lawyer, it will be a danger to national security," said Naftali Wurzburger, who said he plans to file the appeal today. "My feeling, based on cases like this in the past, is that they are conducting a very tough investigation, including beating him and not allowing him to sleep. So by removing him from society, they can play games with him and try to break him."

Eskin and Damian Pakovitch have been locked up since their arrest early Sunday morning. The two are suspected of incitement, and were remanded for six days. Elli Wohlgelemer

Branover challenges Weizman

By BATSHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman yesterday officially announced that he is seeking a second term. Prof. Yirmiyahu Branover said that he will also enter the race.

At the same time, MK Shaul Amor (Likud), who has been mentioned as a possible candidate, said he has not yet decided whether to run.

Weizman met yesterday morning with Likud MKs Meir Sheerit, Ehud Olmert, and Yehuda Lankri. After he announced his intention, Sheerit, who is coalition faction chairman, said the party would hold a discussion on the matter in the first week of January, while Lankri, who joined Olmert in praising Weizman, said that the Geshet faction would also have to decide which candidate to support.

Olmert, however, came out strongly in favor of Weizman, saying that he hopes Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will decide that the Likud should sponsor Weizman's renomination.

"I am of the opinion that Weizman has given new and praiseworthy content to the presidency," Olmert said in an Israel Radio interview after the meeting. "He has worked toward national reconciliation at a time of deep divisions and difficult rivalries in the body politic. In this way, he has imbued the position with content and significance."

Meanwhile, the Movement for Jewish Leadership presented the candidacy of Branover at a press conference in Jerusalem.

A renowned physicist, Branover, 66, was the first of the refusenik scientists to make aliya to Israel in the early 1970s. He teaches and does research at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba.

Branover said that he had received assurances from a number of MKs that they would support him.

For his part, Amor said he had spoken to Netanyahu about his candidacy and that the prime minister had told him he had not made up his mind whom to support.



Yirmiyahu Branover

PM will not sign security document

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will refuse to sign a document negotiated between Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs under CIA auspices because he considers it flawed and unbalanced, a senior official said yesterday.

The defects and distortions relate to omission of the Palestinian Authority's obligation to extradite those suspected of terrorism or capital crimes, and to the confiscation of weaponry possessed by Israeli and Palestinian extremists.

This was described as a grave deviation from the Hebron Agreement's Note for the Record. Netanyahu's other reason for not signing the document is that it equates Jewish militants with the

suicidal terrorists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the official went on.

Among the document's negotiators were Ami Ayalon, chief of the General Security Service, the head of the PA's security forces in Gaza, and a CIA representative. They initiated it on behalf of Israel, the PA, and the US.

Palestinian officials claimed that no security arrangement had been made with Israel, despite several recent meetings among Palestinian, Israeli and CIA officials.

Ahmed Qurie, Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council charged that the Palestinians had not accepted Israeli demands, and accused Israel of violating the peace process and the signed accords.

However, Gaza Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan claimed that "what we have

reached until now is an understanding with the Israelis regarding the interim phase and the demand that both sides prevent violence."

The security document calls for

fulfillment of obligations by the Palestinians as stipulated in the Hebron Accord and demands that the Palestinians crack down on terrorist infrastructure and arrest

Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist leaders without releasing them. Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib contributed to this story

Ministers to get a bird's-eye view of map

By JAY BUSHINSKY and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to join his cabinet colleagues today on a helicopter tour of the West Bank. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will serve as the tour guide.

The purpose, as suggested by Sharon, is to familiarize the ministers with the topography and strategic assets of the areas under consideration for transfer to the Palestinian Authority.

Foreign Minister David Levy, one of the cabinet's most outspoken moderates, will not go along, Israel Radio reported last night.

The helicopter tour of Judea and Samaria is yet another effort to consolidate a position on the second withdrawal, Army Radio reported.

Defense sources confirmed that the ministers will be flown in IDF helicopters and will travel across the West Bank at least twice. The first sweep will be to see the defensive red lines according to a map prepared by the IDF and defense establishment, defense sources said. On a second sweep, the ministers will be shown the "national interests," according to a map prepared by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Senior IDF officers will accompany the ministers, defense sources said.

Jordan Valley settlers to protest pullback

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

As cabinet ministers tour Judea and Samaria this morning, Jordan Valley residents plan to demonstrate at the Alon junction to protest against the withdrawal and the settlement construction freeze.

Jordan Valley spokeswoman Tami Atlas said that residents from Ma'aleh Ephraim are protesting the freeze, saying Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had promised them an additional 1,000 housing units when he met them this May. Residents say they are unable to provide housing for their offspring.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza is still discussing what form of action to take against the proposed withdrawal. An emer-

gency meeting yesterday failed to reach any decisions due to the annual budget discussions.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said chairman Pinhas Wallerstein and members Uri Ariel, mayor of Beit El, and Ze'ev Hever, director of the council's Amarna settlement division, still abide by their decision to try to topple the government if the withdrawal takes place.

Tayar said council members are to meet with US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Richard Roth on January 7 to discuss the Palestinians' commitments under the Oslo Accords and Hebron agreement. On November 25, the council sent the embassy a letter demanding the US pressure the Palestinians to fulfill their obligations instead of pressuring Israel.

Settlers, IDF discuss Hebron violence

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Hebron settlers met with the OC Judea and Samaria Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan yesterday to discuss the recent outbreak of violence in the town.

Spokesman Noam Arnoo charged that reinforcing troops would not solve the problem, as they needed to be dispersed throughout the area instead of being grouped at outposts.

Late Sunday night shots were fired at IDF troops stationed outside the Avraham Avinu Quarter. The IDF spokesman said no one was injured and troops opened fire at a suspect seen fleeing toward the Palestinian controlled section of the city.

Palestinian sources later claimed that Adnan Jabari, 35, was

nearby Palestinian security forces with a wounded hand. Jabari was transferred to the Aliya Hospital.

Early yesterday morning, a group of armed settlers patrolled the cashah in protest. Arnoo said the settlers would not remain quiet and were assessing the situation and future actions.

While military sources did not rule out the possibility of closing Palestinian stores in the section under Israeli control if the violence intensifies, the IDF spokesman refused to respond charging that it was against IDF policy to reveal tactics.

In an unrelated incident, a Palestinian was wounded near Nablus last night when a grenade exploded in the field he was plowing. Palestinian sources said Mahioud Dawikat picked up the grenade and apparently triggered it by mistake.



Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Foreign Minister David Levy chat yesterday. (Yitzhak Eilansky/Scope 80)

Chinese FM brings message from Assad

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen delivered a message from Syrian President Hafez Assad to Jerusalem yesterday in which Damascus repeated its willingness to renew peace talks on condition that they pick up from where they left off 21 months ago.

Foreign Minister David Levy replied that "it is not correct that Israel intends to go back to the beginning if the negotiations start up again - even if it is true that there is an agreement which was reached with the previous government."

"If Syria really is interested in peace, as is Israel, it will be possible to return to the conference table while we take into account the progress made - if there was any - in certain areas. I do not understand what kind of sacrifice Syria would have to make if

she were to resume the discussions with Israel on that basis."

Qian, who also holds the rank of deputy prime minister, was sparing in his public comments about the information given him during his weekend stay in Damascus. "Once you have made a commitment, it is very important to keep it," he declared at a luncheon given in his honor by Levy. Immediately afterward, he was told by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that Israel wants to go back to the negotiating table, but that it is impossible to set prior conditions.

Sources gained the impression that China is more interested in attracting investments from Israelis and the Diaspora than in being drawn into the intricacies of the peace process. "The latter barely was mentioned in Qian's session with the prime minister," one source said.

Knesset panel fails to approve 1998 state budget

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday failed to approve the 1998 state budget. This was the second consecutive day coalition disagreements prevented the budget being brought before the plenum for debate ahead of its second and third readings, scheduled for December 31.

At 4:30 p.m., chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) decided there would be insufficient time to vote on the budget, and announced the committee would reconvene at 10 this morning. The main outstanding issues are control of the basket of health services and planned cuts to child benefit payments.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman expressed confidence that the budget will eventually be approved. "On the night of December 31, there'll be votes in the Knesset. Let's wait and see what happens then. It's a very well

accepted and understood process of discussions. MKs have aired suggestions which we are checking. By December 31, we very much hope there'll be a budget for the State of Israel."

Throughout the day, Shas MKs insisted they would only support the budget if Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai is given joint control of the basket of health services with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza. Hearing this, Geshet's representatives insisted Foreign Minister David Levy also have a say in the health basket.

By mid-afternoon, Ravitz said that a compromise was near. "There will be a ministerial committee for health matters under the chairmanship of the health minister, just like there is a Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs," said Ravitz. The committee would also include Yishai, Levy, and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party). The

proposal was welcomed by Yitzhak Cohen (Shas).

However, the government still faces stiff opposition over planned cuts to child benefit payments totaling NIS 500 million. Those leading the fight against the cuts are Michal Kleiner (Geshet), who chairs the coalition group on the committee, and Zvi Hendel (NRP).

Kleiner claimed that coalition whip Meir Sheerit attempted to remove him from the committee to ensure a government majority. He said that any such attempt would immediately result in David Levy's resignation.

"In any case, it's impossible for him to do this because of our coalition agreement," said Kleiner. "At the moment, there is no majority. The finance minister must compromise. With regard to child benefits, there must be a substantial compromise. I've been saying this now for four months."

The overall framework of the budget, which includes a spending

cut of NIS 2.3 billion remains intact, according to senior Treasury officials. "So far we are still on course to achieve our bud-

get deficit target," said Director-General Shmuel Slavin, referring to goal of a deficit of 2.8 percent of gross domestic product.

INTEL

Continued from Page 1

The innovative use by the company, based in Santa Clara, California, of microchip technology changed the computer industry.

Grove, 61, joined Intel - now worth \$115 billion - when it was formed in 1968. He became president in 1979 and CEO eight years later, reported Time, whose year-end edition hit US newsstands yesterday.

Grove was born Andrés Gróf on September 2, 1936, in Budapest. When the Germans occupied Budapest in March 1944, Grove and his mother went into hiding and lived on stolen papers. His father survived the Eastern front. When the Soviets invaded Hungary in 1956, Grove and a friend escaped to Austria. He was brought to New York by the International Rescue Committee.

Grove, who lost most of his hearing when he suffered scarlet fever as a child, got through City College of New York by lip reading and compulsive study.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

He was booed and greeted with shouts of "Bibi go home" when he first arrived, but later was applauded by residents.

"We didn't come with gimmicks," Netanyahu said. "We came with real solutions, with specific jobs in specific factories. [and] I intend to return here to make sure there are results."

During a meeting with residents, he listed one by one the companies and number of jobs that each would provide, starting with 150 jobs at the ECI Telecom plant. But even as Netanyahu toured Ofakim, one of the town's largest employers, the New Horizons textile company, announced it is moving half its production to Jordan, eliminating 100 jobs, Israel Radio reported.

Still more doubts surfaced when a senior executive of one of the employers cited by Netanyahu

said his company knew nothing of the job offers the prime minister had promised in its name.

"No one asked us, no one spoke to us, and I don't know what [Netanyahu was] talking about," Hanan Greenberg, vice-president of the Bagir textile firm, told Channel 1. Greenberg said Bagir had no jobs available.

An official of the Employment Service responded that Greenberg "apparently has yet to be updated."

Foreign Minister David Levy, head of the Geshet faction, threatened yesterday to leave the government unless changes are made in the social welfare budget to deal with the problems of unemployment, health care, and housing.

"If there are not far-reaching changes that will provide an answer to these real problems, we will not be in this government. It's not a threat. It's an unequivocal announcement," Levy told Israel Radio. "We are at the moment of truth, and I will not let this situation continue."

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Crisis over as Livnat, Lieberman withdraw candidacies

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The latest crisis in the Likud ended yesterday, when former diplomat Zalman Shoval agreed to serve as World Likud chairman after both Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Avigdor Lieberman withdrew their candidacies.

The compromise to settle on Shoval reduced the tension between the warring factions and enabled the resumption of the World Likud convention, which had erupted in violence and blows the previous day and was declared closed by outgoing chairman Ronni Milo.

Prior to choosing Shoval, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu rejected the proposal to appoint National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon as World Likud chairman. The idea was raised by Livnat at the consultation with

Lieberman and Milo after midnight Sunday, in an effort to find a solution to the crisis. Livnat had insisted on a "worthy" candidate and would not give in to pressures from Lieberman's side.

Lieberman's comment on the Sharon proposal was "interesting," but after seeing Netanyahu, Lieberman reported that the prime minister had rejected the proposal. The three finally agreed on Shoval, formerly Israel's ambassador in Washington. After obtaining Netanyahu's approval, they contacted Shoval in New York and secured his agreement.

The World Likud convention gathered in a subdued atmosphere yesterday, with no trace of the shouting, shouting and violent occurrences of the previous day. Likud leaders expressed shame when they saw the delegates' behavior on television and heard the voices on the radio.



Zalman Shoval

Senior Likud figures were quoted as saying "if we continue this way, we shall fall from power."

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, Likud leader for more than a decade, said yesterday morning that if the thug-like behavior in the Likud continues, it would be necessary "to form a new Likud party."

MK Dan Meridor said the real battle was not for jobs, but for the Likud's soul.

"If we've reached a stage in which Shamir is talking about the possibility of a new Likud, we must take a hard look at what has happened to us," Meridor said. "I'm glad yesterday's attempted violence failed. I hope people will learn they must stand up to violence, and unproven hooliganism like we saw yesterday and have seen on other occasions from the Likud."

Livnat said the main achievement of the compromise was blocking Lieberman's way to taking over another Likud institution, after he was forced to resign as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office over the events at the Likud convention two months ago. She said the prime minister had intervened "too early and too late" in the crisis: too early when he publicly placed himself behind Lieberman's candidacy and too late when he stepped in only after the violence had erupted and the convention already had broken up.

She said the trouble started when "democracy was trampled" at the Likud convention some two months ago, "but the lessons were not learned, nothing was done, and in today's convention the violence erupted." Livnat's decision to step down from the race for the World Likud chairmanship disappointed many

in the Likud, who said she has a habit of making a courageous stand and then giving in and withdrawing at Netanyahu's request.

The convention also elected by open vote Salai Meridor as the Likud's candidate for chairman of the Jewish Agency, MK Ruby Rivlin as Likud president and chairman and Shlomo Gravit as the Likud's candidate for chairman of the Jewish National Fund.

Gravit, who had Livnat and Meridor's support, defeated Lieberman's candidate, Jacques Kouper, 148-144.

"I am very happy with the result [of the Gravit-Kouper election]," Meridor said. "I'm sure that everyone will accept the result and work together."

"We stopped the violence, we stopped the hooliganism. I am very happy," Livnat said after hearing the results. *Item contributed to this report.*

Likud's embers still smolder

ANALYSIS

By SARAH HONIG

Zalman Shoval, the man unanimously elected yesterday to head the World Likud, said that his first order of business would be to "find out what the World Likud is." Like most party members, this ex-MK and ambassador to Washington confessed to knowing "next to nothing about the World Likud." In the weeks of yesterday morning Shoval was nonetheless chosen to head the Likud's esoteric sister entity, which represents it in the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency, and the Jewish National Fund.

Shoval is acceptable to all Likud sides, especially to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, whom Shoval had long loyally functioned as a trusted foreign policy adviser. Shoval readily admitted that the World Likud job is not one he had his heart set on, that he had done more important things in his life and hopes for more senior appointments. He just came to the aid of his party.

Yet obviously his choice had nothing to do with the World Likud or any issues unique to it. It had everything to do with the Likud Party, which exploited the little-frequented World Likud arena to continue waging its never-ending internal feuds. The Shoval appointment was a last-minute dousing of the flames, and it worked.

As soon as the main Likud squabble was at least temporarily under control, the World Likud gathering instantly shrank back to its very diminutive natural proportions and is sure to return to its total anonymity under Shoval's stewardship.

But the local Likud's embers still continue to ominously smolder, fanned by personal ambitions and clique interests. There is no ideological divide. This week's chief antagonists - Limor Livnat and Avigdor Lieberman - are ironically in fact far more alike than popularly imagined. Both, for example, are diehard hawks, considerably to Netanyahu's right, and equally opposed to further redeployment.

But Livnat is flesh of the Likud's flesh, a representative in this case of the party princes - the baby boomers born to very prominent Fighting Family parents. Lieberman is the outsider who managed - for a while at least - to defeat the sons and daughters of the founding fathers. Like him, Netanyahu is also someone the princes look upon with disdain as an upstart.

Much of the action in the Likud in recent months is an outgrowth of this animus and of an attempt by the old party establishment to thwart any threat to its power base and future political prospects. Scrapping the primaries, as Lieberman sought to do, would have robbed the Likud's celebrities and incumbents of their natural advantage in a process which favors the rich and famous.

These, of course, are not problems unique to the Likud, though before the primaries, the party offered newcomers the best chance to climb quickly to the top. But while Labor afforded less opportunity, it was also - perhaps as a result - less volatile. It still operates mostly behind the scenes. The party forums merely rubber stamp what is decided elsewhere, as was well evident in this week's ignored World Labor Movement convention.

In the Likud the action tends to be played out in full view of the public, with all sides appealing loudly to the audience, enlisting the media, and running to the courts. This is particularly reminiscent of the defunct Liberal Party, officially a Likud component. The Liberals, of course, had other problems - like no constituency and no ideology.

But Netanyahu dares not test the analogy too closely. Hence his advice that the Likud learn from Labor to make deals in back rooms.

Politics saps relevance of Zionist Congress

Were it not for the controversy and fisticuffs at the World Likud convention this week, it is doubtful many people in the country would even be aware that the 33rd Zionist Congress is opening in Jerusalem today.

Zionist congresses, once major world Jewish events, have lost much of their relevance. The shenanigans that disrupted the World Likud convention is indicative of problems plaguing the entire congress, which is the supreme governing body of the World Zionist Organization. Just as the World Likud body was a stage for political jousting within the Likud, so the Zionist congresses have turned into battlegrounds for Israeli political parties on the one hand, and Diaspora religious movements on the other.

"I don't think many people are taking notice of the congress," said Howard Weisband, who until March was the Jewish Agency's secretary general. "The only thing this congress has going for it is that it is 100 years since the First Zionist Congress. That speaks of the past, not the future - and that is what should pain us."

Weisband, who is now Bar-Ilan University's vice president for international

IN CONTEXT

By REBE KERRON

development, said he feels there still is room for a "polity" for the Jewish people, a body that can speak to the "needs and issues of the Jewish people as a whole. I believe we need a world Jewish polity - coordination is important. There are issues of the Jewish people, as opposed to issues of the state, that the government can't decide."

But, said Weisband, who spent 11 years in the Jewish Agency, the current problem with the Zionist Congress and the WZO is that its emphasis is "focused on organizational relevancy, as opposed to peoplehood relevancy."

Half of the membership of the Jewish Agency's governing bodies are drawn from the WZO, and half from Diaspora fund-raising organizations.

Weisband said that what all the Zionist Congress is that it has become a stage for Israeli party politics and Diaspora fund-raising politics on the other, while giving short shrift to the true issue it should be concern-

ing itself with: "strengthening the Jewish people as a whole."

The Zionist Congress leadership, Weisband said, "has not had the foresight or wherewithal to say: 'Slow down. Let's put everything aside and see how we can create a hybrid organization that meets the needs of people, not an organization that meets the needs of the political system on this side of the ocean, and the needs of the fund-raising system on the other side of the ocean.'"

The power plays are most evident in filling leadership roles, he said. Just as the Israeli leaders of the WZO and Jewish Agency are chosen because of political expedience, the leaders from the Diaspora are chosen because of fund-raising expedience.

"Based on a contribution, an individual might rise to a position for which he is not necessarily acclimated," Weisband said, choosing his words very carefully. "Or, based on not contributing, one may not rise to a position for which he is most appropriate."

This burts the organization, he said, because "leadership is not based on real merit," but on other - either political or fund-raising - criterion.

Into the breach

By MARLYN HENRY

NEW YORK - When asked what his new job entails, Zalman Shoval, the newly elected chairman of World Likud, said good-naturedly: "I don't really know. I have never been active at all in the World Likud organization."

The violence at Sunday's convention in Tel Aviv "underlines the need for peacemaking," Shoval said here yesterday. "There were frictions and factions and this could have endangered the unity of the movement at a particularly crucial time."

This was not a post he had aspired to, but it seems he made a snap decision to take it. "I gave them a very quick answer, especially as I understand that all the different parties in the Likud wanted me to take the job," Shoval said. "It doesn't happen very often, especially not lately, that anyone is elected unanimously."

Although he is not sure how he is going to be the Likud peacemaker, Shoval said it would help that he is known not to belong to a particular camp in the party. "Nor is it my ambition obviously to make a career for myself in the Jewish Agency," said Shoval, who had refused the jobs of chairman of the Jewish Agency and director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

"This is not, career-wise, anything I was looking for," he said. "Maybe this will bring people to their senses."

Shoval, a former ambassador to the US, seemed sanguine as he prepared to leave New York. "I have faced more onerous or difficult jobs in the past," he said. "I never look back. I always look forward."

Eitan's report on Likud convention slams Lieberman

By SARAH HONIG

Science Minister Michael Eitan yesterday submitted his report on November's ill-fated Likud convention to the party comptroller. In it Eitan charges that fraud and illegal means were employed to scrap the party primaries.

The Likud comptroller was chosen to investigate the convention goes-on after the appointed inquiry committee resigned. This happened because Eitan's membership in the committee was challenged on the grounds that he was one of the chief combatants in the dispute and had gone on record as expressing extremely one-sided opinions.

In his report, Eitan openly admits that he speaks for no one but himself and that the report is his handiwork alone.

As could be expected, Eitan targeted former Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman, whose immediate resignation Eitan had vociferously demanded even before the convention drew to a close.

Eitan writes that "a group of activists headed by Lieberman

conspired to do away with the Likud's Knesset primaries. To achieve their goal, they resorted to fraud, breach of trust, and improper and unauthorized use of state and party resources."

Eitan further charges that Likud director-general Rami Navoo consciously worked to further Lieberman's interests, despite his sure knowledge that he was thereby "violating the confidence of other party members."

Lieberman even tampered with the convention delegates' list, padding it with relatives of his closest supporters, Eitan alleges. Thus the parents, wife, and sister of convention presidium chairman Yisrael Katz were delegates, as were relatives of Morris Nissan. Both Katz and Nissan are among Lieberman's cronies.

But Eitan admits to having no proof. He charges that Navoo shredded the paperwork.

Eitan further accuses Navoo of having foiled his attempts to rent a pavilion at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, the convention venue. The Likud administration rented them all, and let the pro-Lieberman group have one.



Hoping for a miracle

An Alzheimer's patient lights a Hanukkah candle opposite the Knesset yesterday as part of a protest against the government's failure to include tacrine, a drug that slows deterioration of dementia, in the basket of health services. The placard held up by the woman next to him reads: 'Health Minister, You promised and forgot!' Health Minister Yehoshua Matza lit a candle, too, and pledged to deal with the problem personally.

(Text: Judy Shegel; photo: Isaac Harari)

Shahal still reconsidering resignation

MK Moshe Shahal (Labor) told the Labor faction meeting yesterday he would soon decide whether or not to go ahead with his planned resignation from the Knesset. Shahal said he was "embarrassed and moved" by a petition signed by 83 MKs from both opposition, and coalition calling on him to reconsider his decision.

Shimon Peres called Shahal: "One of the greatest parliamentarians this House has known." Ehud Barak called on him to "Reconsider! Stay with us!"

New Sergeant-at-Arms

The Knesset House Committee, chaired by Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) yesterday unanimously endorsed the appointment of Avi Sagiv, formerly a deputy commissioner in the Prison Service, as Knesset Sergeant-at-Arms. He replaces Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, who retired last year after a long term in the post.

Wall prayer bill

Meretz MKs Ran Cohen and Anat Maor have submitted a bill which would establish in law that: "All Jews have the right to hold services and prayers according to their beliefs at the Western Wall and the Western Wall Plaza." This would allow non-Orthodox

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

Jews to hold services there.

Maor and Cohen said the bill aims "to make the Western Wall once more the property of the whole Jewish people."

The killing fields

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) is threatening to prosecute the Nature Reserves Authority if it does not stop what he called the "mass killings" of animals during the current rabies scare.

Poraz this week sent a letter to NRA director Shaikhe Erez, stressing that despite the seriousness of the disease, there are better ways of dealing with it than killing animals in large-scale operations.

"I ask that you immediately inform me the government will stop the mass killings of animals; that it is immediately implementing a program of oral rabies vaccinations [for wildlife] and is undertaking a large public information campaign on the need for vaccinations," Poraz wrote.

Erez said in response that the NRA is "not carrying out mass killings of animals but only reducing the population of those animals which could transmit the dis-

ease near human settlements. In the settlements themselves, the [Agriculture Ministry's] Veterinary Services are responsible for handling rabies issues. We are continuing our efforts to mobilize funds to further the use of vaccine baits [oral vaccinations] for wildlife to prevent the spread of rabies."

Bring 'em back

MK Ophir Pines (Labor), who coordinates the opposition work in the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, has written to Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal to inform them of the proposals adopted at the World Labor Movement Convention.

He said although the convention had rejected by a small majority his proposal to stop using the term *yordim* for Israelis who have left the country, several important decisions were made, the most significant of which was the recommendation that the Jewish Agency take on the handling of Israelis abroad, rather than the government.

He said he supported Katsav's call to try to bring Israelis back to mark the state's 50th anniversary. Pines proposed that returning Israelis receive the rights of new immigrants if they return in the jubilee year and remain for at least 10 years.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Explosive convention

The press provided an abundance of commentary on the "covert" motives of the participants in the recent battle at the World Likud convention.

Yediot Aharonot's Nahum Bamez claims that the convention provided yet another arena for the power struggles between the Limor Livnat camp, including the Likud veterans, and the Avigdor Lieberman camp, namely Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Current chairman Ronni Milo "has no personal ambitions here, except for the joy of presenting the Likud, and Netanyahu at its head, as a wild mob, with no leader."

He adds that Lieberman entered the battle "only to prove that he could kick the veterans out; it doesn't matter from where, as long as its out."

In her article "World Likud - international shame," *Ma'ariv's* Sima Kadmon addresses the forcefulness of Lieberman and his supporters that led him to fail. "Lieberman showed the convention what he knows and this is what he knows," she writes, concluding that Livnat and Milo "let him fall into every possible pit, one after the other until the very last, and in the evening, Milo covered the last one and went home." "The riot surrounding the lead-

ership of the World Likud... is the remnant of the veteran's rebellion," claims *Ha'aretz's* Akiva Eldar. He adds that Livnat has changed her tactic in her fight against Netanyahu: "She shoots Lieberman, but actually aims higher, at the prime minister."

Anti-unemployment budget

"It is obvious... that we are dealing with a ticking social time bomb whose fuse is getting shorter," writes *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid, referring to Netanyahu's visit to Ofakim yesterday. According to Lapid, it is imperative that Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman be able to pass the budget which will allow the renewal of economic growth, but unfortunately "it naturally serves as an umbrella for demagogues such as Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai... who are only interested in immediate solutions that will draw public sympathy."

Ha'aretz's Zvi Barel supports the idea of closing down Ofakim and giving its population a chance to start over in more promising cities. "Ofakim is one of the tragedies of the 1950s, of a plan to disperse the population and settle the Negev, a vision that has no bearing to reality." He adds that "the closing of a town and the ending of its life may be sad, but the lives of its citizens are more important." "Demand for workers grows and unemployment declines only when the government transfers budgets to investments in physical and social infrastructures," states *Yediot's* Sever Plotzker.

American mandate

"For the first time in the history of the state (or history worldwide), the Central Intelligence Agency will have a new role - it will become the arbiter of the most vital issues for Israel's security," states Elyakim Ha'etzi in *Yediot*, protesting against an agreement that the CIA will provide estimates and decide on whether the Palestinians and Israelis are enforcing mutual agreements. "This represents a loss of sovereignty; in the 50th year after our liberation from the British Mandate, we are entering the burden of the American mandate." *Ha'aretz's* Eldar points to a paradox: "Netanyahu, who once worked very hard to kill the idea of American soldiers in the Golan Heights... has given the CIA the right to decide upon security regulations in the heart of the Land of Israel."

Handwritten signature in Hebrew: אורי אהרונים

33rd Zionist Congress opens today

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The 33rd Zionist Congress opens today at Jerusalem's International Convention Center with over 750 delegates from Jewish communities throughout the world participating in discussions on a variety of matters related to Jewish education, immigration and absorption, and other issues.

Key positions within the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund and World Zionist Organization are also to be filled at the congress. Elections of the chairman and members of the Zionist Executive are slated for 4 p.m. today. President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are scheduled to participate in a program tonight. Baya Arad, mother of missing air force navigator Ron Arad, will light the first Hanukkah candle.

Generally, the Congress meets every four years. The last meeting was in 1992, but because 1997 marks the 100th anniversary of the first Congress, it was decided to put the 33rd Congress off a year. Only 503 delegates are eligible to vote. Of these, 190 come from Israel, 145 from the US, and the remainder from the rest of the world. According to World Zionist Organization bylaws, 38% of those eligible to vote are from Israel, 29% from the US, and 33% from the rest of the world. The numbers and representation of those who do not have voting rights are determined according to requests made by specific Jewish organizations.

The 190 Israeli delegates are divided according to their representation in the Knesset, but they include only representatives of Zionist parties. Haredim and Arabs are not represented.

The delegations are divided as follows: There is a Labor-Meretz bloc, a Likud bloc; a Reform grouping; one from Mizrahi, one from the Conservative-Masorti movement, and one from the World Confederation of United Zionists, which is allied with The Third Way - and Yisrael Ba'Aliya. The Israeli delegates to these blocs are chosen by the political parties just prior to the Congress, which is what this week's furor in the Likud was all about.

The US delegates were selected

in elections earlier this year in which about 110,000 people participated. In those elections, the Reform and Conservative movements significantly increased their strength.

The key posts to be filled at the congress include the chairman and the members of the Zionist Executive. The portfolios within the executive include aliya, education, and other areas, that command large budgets and a great deal of power. Discussions have already been held regarding limiting the authority of those who will eventually hold these positions, some of which are new, part of the restructuring of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency.

The actual election of the officials could be an afterthought. As is often the case, agreements have reportedly been reached between the parties regarding several key positions, including that of chairman. According to the agreement between Labor and the Likud, current chairman Avraham Burg is to serve for another two years, before being replaced by Salai Meridor, currently head of the Settlement Division in the WZO.

A new head of the Jewish National Fund is to be appointed, and the rotation agreement calls for that post to go to the Likud. However, Labor delegates are strongly opposed to the head of the French Likud delegation, Jacques Kouper, and have threatened to scuttle the rotation agreement if he is given the post.

Salai Meridor is reportedly backing Shimon Gravez for this post. Labor's candidate, who would take over in two years when Meridor takes over as chairman of the executive, is Yehiel Leket.

The Jewish Agency treasurer is also supposed to rotate in two years, with current treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda expected to continue as the Likud's choice for now, although there have been reports Meridor might seek the position for himself. There are also rumors Meridor might take the Keren Hayesod helm for the initial two-year period.

Politics aside, Zionist ideology will be discussed at the gathering. Burg, for example, is eager to have the WZO make a greater effort to encourage immigration from the West.



Yoram Eyal (left) and other Maccabi officials hold a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Reuters)

Maccabiah indictments called 'small step'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Adam Zines, whose father was killed in the Maccabiah bridge collapse in August, was not very impressed by the indictments handed down yesterday for the disaster.

"It's only a small step," he said by telephone from Australia. "You've got to get to the result. Indictments don't mean anything if the guys are let off. This is the first step, but at least it's a step in the right direction. Let's just hope the courts take over and find a way to actually reduce some of the strain that we've been under."

"I am I guess satisfied that someone from Maccabi World Union has been indicted, but equally I'm not going to be satisfied until he's been dealt with accordingly."

As for the delays in filing the indictments, Zines said: "It has taken some time, but hopefully the actual judicial process can prove that this delay was necessary to prepare a strong case against these five people. Notwithstanding that, there could be others who should potentially be indicted from the Maccabi World Union."

Zines said yesterday's resignations by Maccabi officials Yoram Eyal and Itamar Herman was just "something to make them look good. They are out of the organization. Until somebody from Maccabi World Union stands up

and says: 'We are terribly sorry for what happened, we've made a terrible mistake, we underestimated our own abilities,' and comes out and publicly says that they will do everything in their power to find out who was responsible for it and seek their immediate resignation, I'm going to be far from satisfied."

"Ever since the accident happened they've said: 'We're not responsible, it was the builder.' The builder said: 'We're not responsible, it's the engineer.' The engineer said: 'It's the builder.' Somebody's responsible. And I believe that the Maccabi World Union had the sole, autonomous authority to build this bridge. Three weeks before the opening ceremony, they were still looking around to see who would build the bridge. To say they did everything in their power to ensure the safety of the athletes is a farce."

Zines said that the victims would still have to wait until someone is convicted before they can file damage suits. His father, Warren, died from swallowing toxic water, he said, and a civil case might be brought against the Israeli water authorities in the future.

"I really want to say to the Israeli people that something good can be made of this tragedy," Zines said. "With their support and the support of the government, we will fight this and insure that accidents like this don't hap-

pen again."

He added that the "warmth and support of the Israeli public has been overwhelming." Some 1,200 faxes from the general public had been received by the victims and their families.

"We're glad they picked up one big fish in Eyal," Colin Elterman, whose daughter Sacha was seriously injured in the accident, said yesterday of the indictments.

Elterman blasted the Maccabi World Union's two-day meeting on the bridge disaster. "They flew 30 people into Israel, probably first or business class. If that money had been spent on the bridge, we wouldn't be in the situation we're in, for starters."

"At the end of the day, what did they decide? Two people resigned from the subcommittees they were on but not from the executive. They also decided to conduct their own internal investigation. They're investigating themselves, which is like having Draeula investigate the blood bank."

Elterman said the families wanted the Maccabi World Union officials to all "step aside" and a temporary administration set up until Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled has a chance to arrange an independent investigation, something the families have been demanding. Elterman said his daughter was making some progress.

NEWS

in brief

Kinneret low despite recent rainfall

The water level in Lake Kinneret is still far below what it was at this time last year, despite the recent rains. "The level has only risen by 10 centimeters since the beginning of the winter, mainly as a result of the last lot of rainfall," said Lake Kinneret Authority chairman Zvi Ortenberg. He said the mark it had reached yesterday, 212.14 m. below sea level, was only 86 cm. above the minimum level of 213 m. below sea level. Ortenberg said that the amount of precipitation in the north generally, and the Kinneret's catchment area in particular, had been relatively light so far. "There's no reason for panic when we are in December and there are still three months of winter in front of us," he said. "Nevertheless, the picture, at this stage, is not very good, as anyone who travels around the lake can see. The level is low." David Rudge

Knesset committee debates culture budget

Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann yesterday promised the panel would do all it can to increase the culture budget. MK Rafi Eyal (Labor) said the solution is the transfer of funds from the Sportot, "as is done in other countries like England, which led to cultural development." Cameri Theater general manager Noam Semel agreed, noting that the ministry had cut the culture budget by 10% last year, which led other bodies supporting the arts to make similar cuts. Zissmann pledged to allot NIS 5 million to the Antiquities Authority and said the budget for local cinema would soon be buoyed by special legislation. Aryeh Dean Cohen

Hanukkah party for young cancer patients

Characters from *The Flintstones* cartoon series will be featured at a Hanukkah party given by Whispers of the Heart, an organization dedicated to cancer-stricken children, at the Laromne Hotel in Jerusalem tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the hotel in cooperation with Turner Entertainment Networks International, whose Cartoon Network is the home of *The Flintstones*. During the event, Whispers of the Heart will be presented with invitations for four children to attend actor Paul Newman's "Hole in the Wall Gang" summer camp for seriously ill children. More than 70 children and their families will attend the party. Jerusalem Post Staff

Postal rates up 6.5%

By JUDY SEGEL

The Knesset Economics Committee yesterday approved a hike of postal rates by an average of 6.5%, but said they would be in effect for only three months. Committee chairman MK Avi Yehzekel demanded that in the interim, a public committee be appointed to propose a new structure for postal charges.

Postal Authority Director General Moshe Tery told the committee that the rate hike is 2.6% below the increase in the Cost-of-Living Index and was necessary to cover increased costs. All the new rates go into effect today. While the cost of a regular domestic letter of up to 20 grams or a postcard was increased from NIS 1.10 to NIS 1.15, the charge for sending a fax abroad has been cut drastically from NIS 20.10 (for the first page) to NIS 11.50, with every additional page costing NIS 5 instead of NIS 10.10. The cost of a package (up to 20 kg.) to soldiers is NIS 7.60 instead of NIS 7.10, while an airmail is NIS 1.40 instead of NIS 1.30. A package of up to one kg. sent inside Israel now costs NIS 9.80, up from NIS 9.10. A regular air letter to the US costs NIS 2.20, up from NIS 2, and to Europe NIS 1.80, up from NIS 1.70. A regular telegram inside Israel is NIS 22.90, compared to the previous NIS 19.90.

Zionist youth convening in capital

While their elders open the Zionist Congress today at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, 160 young people will be launching the World Zionist Congress for Youth at the Jerusalem Gates Hotel. Forty of the delegates represent the Zionist Youth Council, stu-

dent, and youth organizations in Israel, while the others are from the US, England, Belgium, Hungary, Turkey, Yugoslavia, France, and other nations. Among the issues to be discussed at the conference, being sponsored by the World Zionist Organization's Youth and

Hehalutz Department, are Israel's relations with its neighbors in light of the peace negotiations; whether young Jews are obligated to immigrate to Israel; the centrality of Israel; the Law of Return and the conversion bill; and maintaining the continuity of the Jewish people. Aryeh Dean Cohen

ACCIDENT

Continued from Page 1

Eyal's story typifies what happens to drivers who kill out of negligence, says Yaffa Bichovsky, a social worker and head of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's Adult Probation Office for the Tel Aviv district. In the last eight years, some 200 such drivers, including Eyal, have come into her office for group therapy. It's part of their sentence.

"All of them talk about committing suicide. But so far none of them has done it. They say they don't want to cause more suffering. They say, 'My punishment is to stay alive.'" she explains.

"Who are the dead? Often someone in the car with the driver - his child, his wife, his grandmother. With young people, it's often a close friend," Bichovsky says, noting that some 90 percent of the drivers she's counseled have been men.

"Many times they've seen the dead body after the crash - broken up, in pieces on the road. They block this out of their minds. But it comes back to them in nightmares."

"They try not to go to sleep; they sit up watching TV until the middle of the night. Or they work all day and night in the hope that afterward they'll fall fast asleep and not have to lay in bed for hours, thinking, and maybe they'll sleep so soundly that they won't dream," Bichovsky continues.

"Some quit their jobs and move to another city. They stop seeing their friends. If they're single, they stop going out with women. If they're married, they may not have sex with their wives for years. They feel they don't deserve to enjoy anything. They say, 'My life stopped on the day of the accident.'" The worst of Eyal's symptoms

have passed, but he still has frequent sleepless nights. Some days he doesn't eat, and some days he eats ravenously. During and after the spate of terror bus bombings early last year, he had a recurring dream.

"People were getting on a bus that I had bought, that belonged to me, and then the bus blew up. You understand? I was guilty."

"The steering wheel was in my hand. I was the one in control," he stresses. "I could have slowed down, I could have braked. I could have done something to avoid the accident, but I did nothing."

When counseling drivers who've killed, Bichovsky says she becomes "hysterical" behind the wheel, frightened of death of causing an accident herself.

"I sit face to face with these drivers and I identify with them," she says. "I realize the same thing could happen to me. These are normal people who got careless."

Asked why he wanted to tell his story, Eyal says: "I want people who drive recklessly to understand that if they kill somebody, they won't be able to put it behind themselves and go on as before. You can't replace the life you took. It's the most horrible thing. It's like you wake up every morning in darkness, and spend the rest of the day looking for little specks of light."

In group therapy, Bichovsky says, drivers who have killed learn to face what they've done, realize they're not alone, and become "functional" again.

"But I tell them their pain and guilt will be with them for good. They may learn why they're having nightmares, and the nightmares may lessen, but they don't go away. These people will never be free from what they've done. This is one thing time doesn't heal."

body punishes them, maybe they can stop punishing themselves."

Though the maximum penalty for vehicular homicide is 20 years imprisonment, Bichovsky says few of the drivers she's counseled have gone to jail. Most had their licenses suspended for years and received heavy fines.

Eyal says he doesn't know in his own mind if he was really guilty or not, and that this doesn't matter to him, anyway.

"The steering wheel was in my hand. I was the one in control," he stresses. "I could have slowed down, I could have braked. I could have done something to avoid the accident, but I did nothing."

When counseling drivers who've killed, Bichovsky says she becomes "hysterical" behind the wheel, frightened of death of causing an accident herself.

"I sit face to face with these drivers and I identify with them," she says. "I realize the same thing could happen to me. These are normal people who got careless."

Asked why he wanted to tell his story, Eyal says: "I want people who drive recklessly to understand that if they kill somebody, they won't be able to put it behind themselves and go on as before. You can't replace the life you took. It's the most horrible thing. It's like you wake up every morning in darkness, and spend the rest of the day looking for little specks of light."

In group therapy, Bichovsky says, drivers who have killed learn to face what they've done, realize they're not alone, and become "functional" again.

"But I tell them their pain and guilt will be with them for good. They may learn why they're having nightmares, and the nightmares may lessen, but they don't go away. These people will never be free from what they've done. This is one thing time doesn't heal."

Last of a four-part series.

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A light to the nations

By HELEN KAYE

The candle lighting at the President's Residence tonight to celebrate the first light of Hanukka is one of many similar ceremonies occurring throughout the world to inaugurate the beginning of Israel's Jubilee year.

President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will light the first candle before an audience including representatives from the Ethiopian community. The ceremony will include the arrival of a torch carried in relays by Maccabi runners direct from Modi'in, home of the original Maccabim.

Following the approximately 30 minute ceremony, Netanyahu and Weizman will continue on to the Jerusalem International Convention Center for the opening ceremony at 8:30 p.m. of the World Zionist Congress, which this year marks not only the state's Jubilee but a century of Zionism which the first congress at Basel inaugurated.

Around the world, some 33 heads of state, prime ministers and other dignitaries will light the first Hanukka candle in their nations' capitals. Because of the time difference, Australian Prime Minister John Howard was the first. Later today, US President Bill Clinton will light the candle in the Oval Office accompanied by students from a Jewish school in Washington.



Talya lights the first Hanukka candle, as Ro'i (c) and Tal watch, at a Hanukka party at their gan last week. (Dan Osmundryev/Israel Sun)

In Rome, Italy's President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro will light his candle under the Arch of Titus. Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav will be there too, after attending a similar ceremony at the Vatican. Other world leaders lighting candles include Presidents

Jacques Chirac of France and Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, Vaclav Havel from the Czech Republic, German President Roman Herzog, Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and the UK's Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The hanukia at these ceremonies was made for the occasion and is a copy of that belonging to a seventh-generation Jerusalem family. World Jubilee Committee chairmen Merv Edelson and Marvin Josephson said that the candle-lighting ceremony at the

White House is "the opening kick to a year celebrating the short but very special history of Israel, and a reminder of the desire for a people's continuity despite hardship, especially at a time when Jews the world over are commemorating the rededication of their Temple."

Midnight Mass to be broadcast in Hebrew

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israeli television viewers will be able to follow this year's midnight mass in Bethlehem tomorrow night, with explanations in Hebrew, thanks to a Saudi-owned television network, an official of the Latin Patriarchate said yesterday.

Wadei Abu Nassar, media adviser to Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, said that the right to broadcast the mass had been acquired from the Palestinian Authority by Arab Radio and Television (ART), a private company owned by a Saudi national. ART had, in turn, allowed the Second Channel to broadcast the service for what Abu Nassar described as a nominal sum.

Abu Nassar, who is to provide the vocal explanations, said that he

insisted that these be in Hebrew, in addition to Arabic.

"I want Jews to know what is going on, as well as Arabs," he said.

Channel 1 is to broadcast the midnight mass from the Greek Catholic Church in Nazareth, with an Arabic explanation.

In a pre-Christmas press conference in Jerusalem yesterday, Sabbah told all extremists - Jews, Moslems, or Christians - that they are "not condemned to exclusion of the others, and hence to extremism and violence." Concerning what Sabbah described as a "world campaign" to stress Moslem persecution of Christians, he said that the governments of all the Arab countries are attentive to the issue of Christian rights, but he said incidents between individuals or lower level officials could occur.

Conservative Beit Midrash ordains two women rabbis

By Jerusalem Post Staff

More than 60 students received degrees last night at the commencement exercises of the Beit Midrash - Seminary of Judaic Studies held in Jerusalem.

The Beit Midrash is an affiliate of New York's Jewish Theological Seminary and is the academic center of Conservative (Masorti) Judaism here.

The program was devoted to the issue of religious pluralism in

Israel, and featured newly appointed rector Dr. Alice Shalvi, JTS chancellor Dr. Ismar Schorsch, Beit Midrash president Rabbi Benjamin Segal, and Third Way MK Alex Lubotzky.

Two of the five rabbinic ordainees - Tamar Kohlberg and Amy Levin - are women. In addition, two master's degrees in the interdisciplinary fields of Jewish studies and women's and gender studies were awarded to Noa Shashar-Ettun and Miriam Perry.

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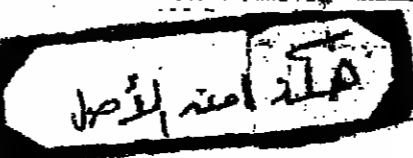
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Clinton to Balkans: Peace is up to you

SARAJEVO (AP) — Under tight security in this war-scarred city, US President Bill Clinton said yesterday that the US is proud of its role in resurrecting the crippled region but said "the future is up to you — not the Americans, not the Europeans, not to anyone else."

Clinton exulted in the new face of Sarajevo, bustling with people and cafes and thriving business, a few short years after the guns were silenced.

He met with Bosnia's federation of leaders and described his message to them: "You owe it to your country to bring out the best in people, acting in concert, not conflict, overcoming obstacles, not creating them, rising above petty disputes, not fueling them." Clinton said he encountered a group of soldiers from Virginia and one of the troops told him, "These are good people and this is a good thing we're doing."

Clinton was visiting the American base in Tuzla later in the day, to thank the 8,000 US troops who learned last week their stay here will be indefinite.

"We in the United States are proud of our role in Bosnia's new beginning," he said.

For the most part, though, Clinton's speech in Sarajevo was directed at Bosnia's people and its quarrelsome leaders.

To the people, he said: "You must make your desire for peace and the common future clear to the leaders of each group." To the three members of Bosnia's collective presidency, he said they were responsible for rebuilding the government and for turning the 1995 Dayton peace accords into reality.

"In the end, the future is up to you, not to the Americans, not to the Europeans, not to anyone else," he said.



US President Bill Clinton shakes hands with Bosnian counterpart Alija Izetbegovic as US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright applauds during their visit to Sarajevo yesterday.

Of their responsibility, Clinton said, "Those who shirk it will isolate themselves. The world, which continues to invest in your peace rightfully expects that you will do your part. More importantly, the people of this country expect results and they deserve them."

Clinton reminded the three ethnic groups — Croats, Serbs and Muslims — that the US itself has more than 180 different ethnic groups living in peace — and challenged them to follow America's example.

Clinton sought to put the

Bosnian conflict into a global context, comparing it to tensions in the Middle East, Central America and elsewhere.

"None of us has the moral standing to look down on another, and we should stop it," he said to thunderous applause.

The president was clearly moved by what he'd seen in the city. He described the war years during which people ran a gauntlet of snipers and shells in search of water and food, noting, "Now they walk in security to work and

school."

Clinton and his family stopped by a coffee shop near the Markale marketplace, the site of devastating shelling in 1994 and 1995, and said the local people there told him, "Stay for a while longer."

En route to Bosnia, Clinton told reporters that his message to officials in private meetings would be blunt: "The future of the country is still in their hands. ... In the end, they've got to behave."

Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, said

Clinton "went leader by leader, name by name, and was very tough, telling them they have to do their part."

Clinton acknowledged last week that it was a mistake to promise a troop withdrawal by June 1998 and announced that American peacekeeping forces would stay in Bosnia with no set deadline.

Clinton's grueling 36-hour tour, with his wife and daughter in tow, visited some of the most wretched ghosts of Bosnia's bloody four-year civil war.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin tells reporters yesterday at the Barvikha sanatorium, where he has been hospitalized for nearly two weeks with a chest infection, that he has fully recovered and plans to return to the Kremlin today.

Yeltsin determined to resume work

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Boris Yeltsin, worried by problems building up on several fronts in Russia, is determined to return to the Kremlin today after nearly two weeks' treatment for a chest infection.

"Tomorrow I'm going back to the Kremlin and to work. There are no traces of the illness left," Yeltsin said yesterday before talks with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the sanatorium where he has been convalescing since December 10.

"Viktor Chernomyrdin and I have many issues to discuss," said Yeltsin, looking tired in brief television footage.

Yeltsin, who has said he has been working on papers for four hours a day at the elite Barvikha sanatorium, is determined to push the government into meeting his pledge to pay off huge wage arrears to public sector workers by the end of the year.

He also knows his return to the Kremlin would help calm local financial markets stricken by investors' flight from developing economies

worldwide due to problems in Asia.

A standoff between his government and its communist opponents in the lower house of parliament over next year's budget and renewed squabbling among powerful interest groups over privatization are also crying out for his intervention.

But his doctors, haunted by the heart attacks he suffered before bypass surgery just over a year ago, are urging the 66-year-old president to take it easy.

Chief Kremlin doctor Sergei Mironov told a news conference on Friday Yeltsin's heart was fine but that he wanted him to stay in the Barvikha sanatorium until tomorrow at the earliest.

But Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrebensky said it was hard to resist the president's determination to get back to work.

Yeltsin's office said he and Chernomyrdin talked for more than 90 minutes yesterday, discussing the financial situation, including next year's budget, and confirming the cash-strapped government's commitment to pay the wage arrears.

China, S. Africa to establish relations

PRETORIA (AP) — China and South Africa will formally establish diplomatic relations on New Year's Day, cementing ties — at the expense of Taiwan — that are already strong economically.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his South African counterpart, Alfred Nzo, will sign the agreement on December 30. It takes effect two days later, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

South Africa, the largest and most influential of the 30 countries that recognize Taiwan, will concurrently be severing diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the island China regards as a rebel province. That represents a major victory in Beijing's 48-year campaign to diplomatically isolate Taiwan.

However, President Nelson Mandela's government plans to

maintain the highest level of relations short of official ties with Taiwan. The Taiwanese Embassy in Pretoria will keep operating in all but name after diplomatic relations are cut, according to Taiwanese officials.

A ceremony opening a Chinese embassy in Pretoria will be held on New Year's Day.

China is South Africa's sixth-largest trading partner. Direct trade between the two countries is expected to reach \$1.6 billion this year, in addition to the \$1.4 billion in trade South Africa conducts with Hong Kong.

During his five-day stay in South Africa, Qian, who is also China's vice premier, will meet Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, before departing on January 1, the Foreign Ministry said.

Italian judge says no trial for PM Prodi

By NICOLA LOMBARDO

ROME (Reuters) — An Italian judge ruled yesterday that Prime Minister Romano Prodi will not stand trial for his role in a controversial food group privatization before he took office, saying charges of alleged wrongdoing did not stand up.

"The judge decided not to proceed with the case against Prodi and the others charged because there is no case to answer," his lawyer Paola Severino told reporters.

Examining Judge Eduardo Landi's decision brings to an end a year-long criminal hearing considering prosecution requests to put Prodi on trial for abuse of office and conflict of interest when he was chairman of state holding IRI in 1993.

Landi said there was also no case to answer for five other members of the then IRI board, including Mario

Draghi, who now is director-general of the Treasury. They had faced charges of abuse of office.

Prodi declined to comment to reporters. "I'm not getting into legal questions about Cirio," he said.

The charges concerned the privatization of food company Cirio-Bertolli-De Rica in October 1993 and centred on the sale of Cirio, a popular brand of canned tomatoes, oil, and other foods, to a little-known southern consortium, Fis. Vi, for 310 billion lire (\$178 million).

Fis. Vi soon afterwards sold the olive oil interests, Bertolli, to the Anglo-Dutch group Unilever, for which Prodi had worked as a consultant.

Fis. Vi subsequently passed Cirio to Italian businessman Sergio Cragnoti. Prodi has denied there was any conflict of interest in his relationship with Unilever, saying he cut ties with the group in May 1993 when he became IRI chairman.

WORLD

in brief

Tibet said to be "under alien subjugation"

The respected International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said yesterday that Chinese-ruled Tibet was "under alien subjugation" and called for a United Nations-run referendum to decide its future status. The Geneva-based body, which works to defend the rule of law around the globe, declared in a major report that the autonomy Beijing argues is enjoyed by Tibetans was fictitious and that real power lay in Chinese hands. "It is to maintain its alien and unpopular rule that China has sought to suppress Tibetan nationalist dissent and extinguish Tibetan culture," said ICJ Secretary-General Adama Dieng. Reuters

Child falls to death from Golden Gate Bridge

A 2-year-old girl sightseeing on the Golden Gate Bridge with her family slipped through a gap of the protective railing and plunged 55 meters to her death. The accident occurred Sunday afternoon as the girl, her 4-year-old brother and parents walked along the bridge. The youngster apparently was walking next to the bridge railing when she fell through a 24-cm gap — just wide enough for a child to slip through. When paramedics arrived, the girl was not breathing but had a pulse as she lay on a dirt construction site. She was airlifted to Children's Hospital in Oakland and was pronounced dead. AP

Carlos the Jackal may get a life sentence

A French prosecutor yesterday said he may request a life sentence for the man known as Carlos the Jackal because of aggravating circumstances in the triple murder he is accused of committing. Prosecutor Gino Necchi indicated to the jury he could ask for a penalty tougher than the standard 30-year sentence after the court heard 23-year-old depositions from eyewitnesses to the murders. Earlier, Judge Yves Corneloup rejected defense lawyers' demand for a delay in the trial, requested to give them a chance to summon three eyewitnesses to the 1975 slayings. Those witnesses are currently not in France. Such a delay would have prolonged the already tardy 7-day-old trial of the Venezuelan-born lynchpin Ramirez Sanchez. The trial was originally scheduled to end last week but is now expected to wind up today. AP

Nigerian "coup plot" arrests highlight divisions

The arrest of the deputy of Nigerian military ruler Gen. Sani Abacha for plotting a coup has underlined divisions in the army and could further stir the cauldron of ethnic mistrust, political analysts said yesterday. "Clearly for the number two to be arrested it points to some division within the military, which is not going to be helpful in light of next year's elections," said one senior Western source. "It is a critical time." Initial public response was muted after the arrest of Lieutenant General Oladipo Diya and 11 others at the weekend for plotting a coup. It was business as usual in cities across Nigeria and there was no apparent tightening of security. Reuters

Brooklyn Bridge for sale

Since it opened in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge has been a symbol for a sucker, the gullible chump who would be willing to buy anything. ("And if you believe that, I've got a bridge I could sell you...") Now, though, the 5,989-foot-long Brooklyn span is "for sale" to the highest bidder, according to *The New York Daily News*. Sponsors will bid for the right to pay for litter and graffiti removal, and disinfecting the stairwells. The bids open at \$25,000. The bridge "sale" is akin to the American Adopt-a-Highway program, where sponsors foot the bill to keep roads clean. Robin Williams adopted sections of the Grand Central parkway in Queens. Bette Midler is responsible for two miles of the Long Island Expressway. The bidding to adopt the bridge, which will take place on a home-shopping TV channel. Other items on the block: Comedian-rabbi Jackie Mason will officiate at your wedding. Opening bid: \$60,000. Marilyn Henry

Queen's speech under new TV management

By PAUL MAJENDIE

LONDON (Reuters) — King George V broke off from his family Christmas dinner in 1932 to speak on the wireless to his loyal subjects — and the chair promptly collapsed under him.

Sixty-five years later, Queen Elizabeth's televised message will be posted on the Internet and broadcast under new management.

"I speak now from my home and my heart to you all," King George V said, in a talk beamed live to 20 million listeners in the British Empire. The *Observer* newspaper concluded: "The time is not far distant when it will be possible for the remotest exile not only to hear the voice of the King but to see His Majesty in the act of utterance."

Now the British monarch has taken to the information superhighway in a society which she admits is changing bewilderingly fast. The Christmas Day broadcast has been a national tradition which

brings many roast turkey dinners across the land to a halt for 10 minutes.

Viewing figures had slumped to 11 million but, after the death of Princess Diana in August, polls show the queen could enjoy record viewing figures this year.

The message, recorded last week at Windsor Castle, is believed to contain a moving tribute to the "people's princess" and footage from her funeral.

Security is tight at Independent Television News which has taken over the broadcast from the state-financed British Broadcasting Corporation.

Leaks in 1987 and again five years later to the press from the broadcast were said to have "personally offended" the queen.

Buckingham Palace's decision to switch contracts was also widely viewed in the media as a snub to the BBC, after it recorded a sensational interview with Diana in the middle of her marriage break-up.

Documents suggest JFK was looking for early Vietnam exit

By MIKE FEINSLER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seven weeks before president John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, American military leaders were anticipating a withdrawal of US forces from South Vietnam by the end of 1965, newly declassified documents suggest.

The documents are likely to add to the historical controversy over whether Kennedy planned to end American military involvement in Vietnam after the 1964 presidential election.

At the time a key October 4, 1963 memo was written, the US had only 16,300 advisers in South Vietnam, a force that would swell to more than 536,000 within five years.

"All planning will be directed towards preparing RVN (Republic of Vietnam) forces for the withdrawal of all US special assistance units and personnel by the end of calendar year 1965," said the memo. Signed by Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, the memo was directed to the uniformed leaders of the four military services.

The memo also ordered the service chiefs to "execute the plan to withdraw 1,000 US military personnel by the end of 1963."

In all, 800 pages of Joint Chiefs papers were made public yesterday by the US government's Assassination Records Review Board. The board was created by Congress to amass for public inspection any records that might shed light on Kennedy's murder.

Some historians believe that Kennedy intended to get out of Vietnam and that his successor, Lyndon Johnson — eager not to be seen as the first American president to lose a war — reversed Kennedy's strategy.

But historian Ronald Spector of George Washington University said the execution of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem on November 1, 1963 may have been more decisive in keeping the US in Vietnam than the change at the top

of the US government.

American leaders discovered that Diem had been bottling up reports from the field that showed the war was going badly for the South Vietnamese, said Spector, who teaches a course on the US role in Indochina.

The documents show that less than a month after Kennedy's assassination, Johnson told his commanders to press the South Vietnamese toward "increased activity" against North Vietnam, while considering "the plausibility of denial; possible North Vietnamese retaliation; [and] other international reaction."

America would remain in Vietnam until August 1973, when US military action in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos ended. By the end of that year, the US had only 50 military people in Vietnam and had suffered 46,163 battle deaths. The war ended April 30, 1975 with North Vietnam's capture of Saigon, the South Vietnamese capital.

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A 'Can' full of wit

Theater Roundup



By Naomi Doudal

The biggest news in theater here for years, not only for discriminating theater-goers but for all serious theater artists, is the recent proliferation of offbeat performances sponsored by the Tel Aviv Fringe Center.

With its focus on high-minded drama, it represents a salutary offset from the crass commercialization which recently has begun to overtake our theaters. Ironically enough, it is establishment bodies — the Tel Aviv municipality and the diverse government councils for arts and culture — that have come to the rescue. They have done so just in time to offer a gen-

THE CAN OPENER ('HAPOTHAN')

By Victor Lanoux
Directed by Michael Lomir
ZOA House, Tel Aviv

DEATH WISH ('GAGOUA LAMAVET')

By Hashem Yassin
Directed by Ita Wertz
Tzavta 2, Tel Aviv



A university professor (Yoram Hattav) is confined to the cellar of a theater in 'The Can Opener.'

eration of dedicated young artists and an appreciative public relief from imminent inanition.

The *Treatment and Down Among the Dunes*, two striking productions already reviewed here, are followed this week by works not less arresting.

With *The Can Opener*, a sophisticated, cerebral piece of black comedy, performed in a cellar deep down in the dingy bowels of ZOA House, we celebrate off-off-Dizengoff at last.

Played in the perpendicular on a stage the size of a shoebox, the piece is directed by an immigrant Russian theater veteran whose extraordinary subtlety and agility in exploiting the tri-c-a-brac of a theater's prop room charges, the piece with density and dynamism.

Two survivors of an atomic war are a literate dockhand of menacing mien, all brawn and biceps (Shimon Mitrani), and a university professor a pale, pontificating intellectual (Yoram Hattav) — are confined to the cellar of a theater

with a pile of canned food for survival. The two give gripping performances locked into a situation that resolves into a physical and metaphysical struggle over stomach vs. spirit.

Esoteric and abstruse, it is however calmed with perpetual movement and plenty of lively wit.

Death Wish is the riveting drama

of Hashem Yassin, a Cairo-trained actor who grew up in a refugee camp in Rafiah.

His study of a boy growing up in a Gaza household is probably the first and most intimate view of the daily lives of Palestinian refugees ever revealed to Israeli audiences.

In a deeply impassioned performance, he expresses a range of

pain, rage and ultimate rebellion against the darker side of the traditional family framework. The feuds, forbidden encounters, the domestic turmoil fomented by the intrusion of a second wife are all treated with a dramatic intensity that is deeply moving.

In all, this is a self-portrait etched with the utmost sensitivity and sincerity.

Paul Simon looks into the mind of a murderer

In Tune



By David Brinn



Paul Simon's new melodies don't seem to flow like they did on past albums.

Paul Simon must have felt like a man with no more mountains to climb. So he decided to write a musical. While it's an indisputable fact that Simon is one of the greatest songwriters of the rock era, that doesn't necessarily translate into Broadway success.

The Capeman, which opens next month, is Simon's version of *West Side Story*, only this time there's no romance involved, just teen youth gangs in the late 1950s and a young, uneducated immigrant from Puerto Rico named Sal who happens to be a murderer without a conscience.

The trick is whether Simon is able to humanize this inhuman character who is based on a real person. From listening to *Songs From The Capeman*, Simon's first new music in six years, the answer is no.

street slang oot at all becoming of a cultured millionaire. As he did with African and Brazilian music in *Graceland* and *The Rhythm of the Saints*, Simoo plunders more musical subcultures, this time Salsa and '50s street-corner doo-wop. But the melodies just don't flow like they did on past albums.

Given these noble failures, it must be noted that there is still exceptional material and performances due to some fine playing and hot rhythms. Simon sparkles on the innocent '50s bounce of "Bernadette" and salsa great Reuben Blades adds authenticity as the older Sal to the moving "Time is an Ocean." Liner notes readers will discover that Simon's son Harper is featured on guitar on a few tracks.

Simoo should be praised for attempting to stretch beyond the narrow confines of the pop song in his quest for art.

But on *Songs From The Capeman*, it sounds too much like fraud. Somebody call Officer Krupke.

LET'S Talk About Love reinforces Celine Dion's position as an internationally recognized pop diva. A fitting tribute to just how far this *petite fille* from Quebec has really come is indicated by her collaborations with the likes of Barbra Streisand, Luciano Pavarotti, Carole King, and The Bee Gees.

The songs span the gamut of styles, from reggae rap to slow-moving ballads, simple love songs and thumpin' disco dance tracks.

Sir George Martin (the producer for those four other guys) even lends a hand in the opening cut, "The Reason," a song written and backed by Carole King. The liner notes mention that the album *Tapestry* was a favorite chez Dion.

She belts out a moving rendition of "Let's Talk About Love," written by Bryan Adams and French superstar Jean-Jacques Goldman and produced by David Foster, yet another fine example of the sing-along blockbuster ballads she's famous for. On the album's highlight, "Us," there's no big-name partner or producer, just Dion singing up a storm.

She even attempts to rehabilitate Leo Sayer's mid-'70s "hit," "When I Need You," but there are limits to Dion's magic. Still, this is a prime example of sophisticated easy-listening pop by one of the masters of the genre.

'TIS THE season to be jolly, and if Christmas is your holiday, then Hanson's *Snowed In* will get those sleighbells ringin'. The manchild trio from Tulsa, Oklahoma, which has melted the hearts of girls worldwide, takes to the ice and snow like naturals.

On *Snowed In*, the brothers Hansoo offer revamped versions of Christmas rock standards like Motown's "What Christmas Means to Me," Phil Spector's "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" and Brian Wilson's "Little Saint Nick," as well as a couple less successful originals.

Those looking for Jewish content can find Taylor Hanson wearing a Magen David chain on the inside flap.

Big Willie Style precepts G-rated rap by the Fresh Prince of Beverly Hills, Will Smith. It provides further proof of the decline of Western civilization.

SONGS FROM THE CAPEMAN

Paul Simon
(Red Artzt)

LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE

Celine Dion
(NMC)

SNOWED IN

Hanson
(Helicon)

BIG WILLIE STYLE

Will Smith
(NMC)

Usually his strongest suit, the lyrics are often stilted and awkward, as Simon attempts to provide insight and details into Sal's mind and trace his metamorphosis from killer to college student. Even worse, and at times inadvertently comical, is hearing Simon sing in Sal's voice, a Puerto Rican accent peppered with profanity and

Heartrending strains from Theresienstadt

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Death hovered over the TAPAC's side stage, where the chamber music from the Theresienstadt concentration camp was performed. Although it was interesting to learn that there was a place in the camp for the light music as well (like that written by the only composer-survivor Frantisek Domazlicky), it was the dances that epitomized the spirit

hypnotically performed by Michael Kugel and Felix Nemirovsky — sounded like the last conversation of two friends plodding toward the abyss.

Maxim Reider
TO CELEBRATE composer Zvi Avni's 70th birthday, a retrospective concert of his chamber works was presented by the Jerusalem

WORKS BY ZVI AVNI

Jerusalem Rubin Academy
December 17

Rubin Academy's faculty members and students. The selection highlighted the composer's formidable versatility of styles and means of expression, from piano solo to percussion, with and without flute, clarinet, and soprano with flute trio.

The *Capriccio* (1956) for piano solo (Allan Sternfeld) reflects the energies and rhythms of a horar-oriented society and music style, though veering away from stereotypes. A more personal style of considerable subtlety is recognizable in *Silhouettes* (1966) for the unconventional combination of

flute and percussion (Moshe Epstein and Oron Schwartz). An emotionally tormented, coarctated personality finds intense expression in *Eptiaph* (1974-9) for piano solo (Liora Ziv-Li).

A phase of sophistication, contrived yet communicative, is represented by a fascinating combination of electronic sounds and percussion in *Five Variations for Mr. K* (1982). Back to more human dimension, the glory of the female voice is celebrated lyrically in *Love under a Different Sky* (1982) for soprano (Liat Alkan) and flute trio, indulging in imaginary as well as highly imaginative folk styles.

The relaxed playfulness of the most recent *Anthropomorphic Landscape* (1997) for clarinet (Ilya Schwartz) strikes one as a relief after a lifetime of conflicting tensions and exciting explorations in abundantly diversified directions. The vital, creative energies of this composer turned the retrospective into an encouraging anticipation of what he still holds in store for his audiences.

Ury Eppstein
CELLIST Boris Pergamen-

schikow performed all the possible combinations of three instru-

JSO RECITAL SERIES

Works by Brahms,
Tchaikovsky, Kodaly
Jerusalem Theater
December 16

ments — with pianist Lars Vogt, with violinist Leonid Kavakos, and with both, as a piano trio, in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's recital series. The sandwiching in of Kodaly's Duo for violin and cello between Brahms's Cello Sonata No. 2 and

Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio op. 50 was a stroke of programming genius. Non-fans of 20th-century music were thus offered a gift of an uncommonly enjoyable work.

Kodaly's Duo is personal, sincere, and unconventional without being provocative. Echoes of folk-style playing were noticeable but not imitative. The two artists engaged in a real musical dialogue, more than in the preceding Brahms sonata.

Brahms's Cello Sonata was impassioned and genuinely emotional. But the cello's excitement did not prevent it from sounding subdued, lacking in bite and inten-

sity, as well as being overpowered frequently by the too assertive piano.

In Tchaikovsky's Trio, the artists displayed thoroughly effective teamwork, maintaining the musi-

SINFONIETTA BEERSHEBA

Mozart and Beethoven
Beersheba Conservatory
December 15

cal and emotional tension throughout this lengthy work.

Ury Eppstein
THIS week's series at the

Sinfonietta held to the original program of old stand-bys but replaced both scheduled conductor and soloist, who had canceled their appearances. Soprano Larisa Tanuev gave the impression that she was a last-minute substitute. The Mozart opera arias were read from the score.

Dynamic and interpretive range were limited. Horia Andreescu, conductor of the Romanian Radio Orchestra, Bucharest, gave a conventional reading of Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. The sounds he drew were hard and dry. Textures were thin, at times strident.

Max Stern

CHAMBER MUSIC FROM THERESIENSTADT

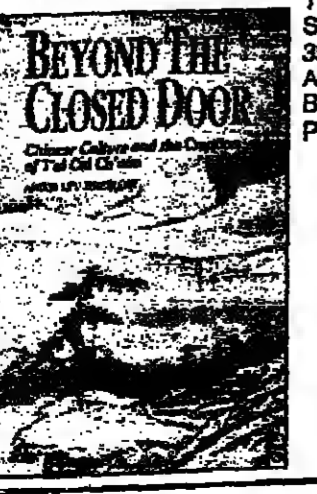
The Group for New Music TAPAC December 18

of this heart-rending concert. *Dance*, by Hans Krasa, and *Two Hassidic Dances*, by Zickmund Schul, were so similar in mood, they seemed to be composed by the same person. Schul's pieces, written for a rather unusual duo — cello and viola which, by its somber tone is nearer to the cello's than the rebellious violin, and

BEYOND THE CLOSED DOOR

Chinese Culture and the Creation of T'ai Chi Ch'uan

T'ai Chi is a child of Chinese culture, reflecting and illuminating the root ideas of its heritage. Arieh Lev Breslow weaves a colorful tapestry of myth, stories, philosophy, history and his own experiences as a teacher of T'ai Chi to give the reader a profound insight into the culture from which it came, helping us understand the origins and practice of T'ai Chi. "Reading this book will certainly take more time than a meal in a Chinese restaurant, and the reward is likely to be greater" — Michael Widlanski, The Jerusalem Post.



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World class spectacle

The somewhat inflated title of the World Likud organization recalls that of the World Wrestling Federation, a staged competition between elaborately muscled and costumed gladiators whose choreographed grandstanding is designed to entertain rather than bestow a meaningful title to the winner.

Since the World Likud is an unknown organization, with no real constituency, influence, or function, perhaps the fighting on the convention floor was meant simply as entertainment, a parody of a power struggle.

Most of the delegates, no doubt thinking they were part of an obscure organization of like-thinkers—a sort of international political club—must have been horrified to find themselves at the center of a national spectacle. In fact, the fracas was like a wrestling match that spilled over the ropes of the ring into a flabbergasted audience.

In this case, the struggle had little to do with the actual honor, great as it may be, of leading World Likud. The diplomat who was in the end chosen, former ambassador Zalman Shoval, admitted to a lack of any involvement or knowledge of the organization he was chosen to head. Rather, the battle was a continuation of the fight that began at the Likud Central Committee over the cancellation of the party's primaries.

At the Likud convention there was real power at stake, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu needlessly let himself get caught between his ministers on the one hand and the party apparatus on the other. In the end, the ministers prevailed on Netanyahu to call for a referendum among party members, which is expected to reverse the central committee's decision to cancel the primaries. Avigdor Lieberman's resignation as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office quickly followed this announcement, and was presumed to be related to it.

With Lieberman finally out, Likud ministers who clashed most bitterly with him over the primaries are determined to keep him far away from the reins of power. One might have thought that the leadership of World Likud could not be much further from center stage, but even that was too much for Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who saw an opportunity to hand Lieberman a defeat.

Netanyahu's big mistake in all this was to again get involved in a party feud. True, it must

have seemed natural for him to endorse Lieberman over the incumbent, Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo. With Milo poised to leave the Likud and form a new party, it would almost seem to be an act of disloyalty for Netanyahu not to support Lieberman, his closest ally during his rise to power. The danger in such a move, however, was exactly what happened: Lieberman's bid for an inconsequential post became a target for still-seething ministers to squish what was left of a Netanyahu-Lieberman alliance.

Though it seems to have been Lieberman's French allies who provided the cameras with the juiciest footage of blocking access to ballot boxes with their bodies and manhandling photographers, Livnat has not exactly approached the matter with kid gloves either. She announced her candidacy at the last minute, after Netanyahu had endorsed Lieberman for the post, thereby ensuring embarrassment for the prime minister.

The lesson from all this for Netanyahu should be to keep a healthy distance from party politics, while paying enough attention to the party to minimize its sense of abandonment. Netanyahu is not the first party leader to have troubles with his own party—such troubles are the rule rather than the exception in party politics in democratic countries. Parties and their leaders seem inherently in conflict over who should serve whom, the party or the leader. Until both sides realize the answer is both, or one side becomes completely subservient, the result is conflict.

Now that relations between Netanyahu, his feistier ministers, and the party have become so strained, the talk of "camps" is creeping back into descriptions of Likud politics. At this point, it is unclear how meaningful it is to talk of camps of the Rabin versus Peres variety that characterized the Labor Party for so long. The opposition to Netanyahu within the Likud has not yet coalesced into a single camp. The way to prevent it from coalescing, however, is not to engage in a running battle with the Likud "princes," such as Livnat and Milo, for party posts. Such tactics invite opposition by bringing the prime minister into the muck of party politics, when he is supposed to be above the fray. While Netanyahu is not known for his healing skills, he should start trying to mediate conflicts, rather than constantly fanning them by taking sides.



Machines and unemployment

The other day I was frantically trying to get some information regarding the pre-flight arrangements offered by one of the foreign airlines. For almost every call, a recorded message answered giving me all sorts of irrelevant (from my point of view) information and instructions. If a live human voice answered (after many long minutes of annoying recorded messages) the person on the other side told me to call yet another number, which on one occasion proved to be "temporarily disconnected" according to a Bezeq recording.

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Israel is doomed. But for many years the subject was taboo, for political reasons. Instead of trying to work out alternative sources of employment for those employed in the textile industry in Israel, all sorts of devices were used to put off the day of reckoning. But now the day of reckoning is here, and there are no answers.

It is very fine to speak of Israel's economic future lying in high-tech industries, as indeed it does. But what about the masses of sim-

The answer to unemployment is a combination of capitalism and soul

ple workers, such as most of those now being laid off in the textile industries, who have neither the level of education nor frequently the intelligence required for jobs in such industries? According to the Social Darwinists these people should simply be left to rot. But in the short run even the social democrats and "social liberals" can offer little more than unemployment relief, while society must allocate growing sums of money to dealing with the social problems, which accompany unemployment.

And there is a third, growing group of unemployed in Israel today. These are well educated experienced employees who are being laid off by some of the more sophisticated industries and businesses, due to the combined effect of the global economic crisis (over which the Israeli government has no control) and the almost total

stalemate in the Middle East peace making process (for which the Israeli government bears a good deal of the responsibility).

The combined effect of unemployment caused by new technologies, structural changes, the effects of globalization and chauvinism has resulted in the number of those seeking jobs rising to over 150,000, and unemployment in certain towns approaching 15%. The fact that the current government is more committed than any of its predecessors to the free market credo—to privatization at almost any price and to high interest rates—and excels at extinguishing fires rather than preventing their outbreak doesn't offer much hope.

Of course, the answer is not a return to the socialism of yesterday. The answer is a combination of capitalism with a soul and social minded government direction—what the French socialists refer to as dirigisme. The Likud can mock the economic record of the previous Labor government as much as it likes, and there is no doubt that Labor's economic management in the years 1992-1995 was a mistake.

However, both former minister of finance Avraham Shohat and former minister of industry and trade Micha Harish combined sympathy for privatization and the encouragement of big and small business alike with a social commitment, especially when it came to the development towns. At the same time, the government pushed the peace process and its economic corollaries forward. There was a direction, and a purpose, not just empty bombastic words, and despite what the Likud keeps repeating parrot like, almost all the economic indicators were more positive than they are today.

The writer is a political scientist.

The 'yihyeh b'seder' map

We have already learned the hard and painful way that 'yihyeh b'seder' (it will be OK) means that very much is not OK. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Staff and Command School, August 1992

AARON LERNER

inked onto the map of Hebron during the prolonged negotiations. And for all we know they might have made a difference if they were honored. But these past few days many of the lines have again lost all meaning. The Palestinians have opted not to comply.

Before the Hebron redeployment, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that if the Arabs started shooting in the city, he would bring in tanks. The

Security is less important than the urgency to close the deal with Arafat

Palestinians are shooting, but until now there are no tanks in Hebron. One can only wonder how the lines would have been in Hebron if the politicians had insisted on a realistic assumption regarding both Palestinian compliance and Israel's own self-imposed response limits.

The IDF's assumptions about Palestinian compliance also drive their estimates of the costs of retaking positions in Palestinian-controlled Area A. When exercises were recently held to ascertain what was involved, the working assumption evidently was that the PA doesn't have anti-aircraft missiles.

And what if one of Arafat's privileged uninspected vehicles carried them into the autonomy? Yihyeh b'seder?

These operational estimates are critical for many reasons, but perhaps the most important one is the correlation between the time it

would take to complete such an operation and the danger of such an action leading to war with neighboring states.

If the IDF can rout the PA in 24 hours, Egypt would not be happy, but it, along with the UN, would face a fait accompli. In sharp contrast, our neighbors would be hard pressed to stand still for a few days. Yes, Egypt sat by when the IDF entered Lebanon to wipe out terrorists. But Lebanon is not Palestine, and the reaction of the Arab masses to a Jewish threat on Beirut is not the same as the frenzy which might be expected from what would no doubt be portrayed as an assault on al-Aksa itself.

Why does Defense Minister Mofech support such a risky map? Perhaps Foreign Minister David Levy explained it best when he argued last week that while Ariel Sharon's map may be more realistic, it was meaningless since the Palestinians would reject it.

Plainly put, Levy feels that security is less important than the urgency to close the deal with Arafat. There is a symbiotic relationship between the yihyeh b'seder politicians and IDF officials. The former don't ask too many embarrassing questions while the latter provide a fig leaf for reckless concessions.

Far from promoting a durable peace, by temptingly tilting the balance in the favor of Israel's enemies, this yihyeh b'seder approach increases the odds and costs of future war.

It's one thing to take a "calculated risk for peace." It's quite another to take an uncalculated leap into the uncertain.

The writer directs IMRA (Independent Media Review & Analysis).

Death row politics

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

Gov. George W. Bush of Texas has a helluva problem. The Supreme Court said no to the lady's final appeal against the death sentence.

The lady in question is youngish (38) and beautiful. She is a born-again Christian. In the course of her conversations with a prison chaplain, all of them conducted with bulletproof glass separating minister and postulant, a courtship developed, and lol they have been married, though they have never shaken hands.

The detective who arrested her has asked for clemency. So also the prosecutors who got her sentenced. So also a pro-death-penalty former US attorney. So also the sister of one of the murder victims, Pat Robertson, the pope of the Christian Coalition, has publicly requested clemency, while reiterating his support for capital punishment.

The mechanics of commutation are complicated in a way that helps Bush. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles has to acquiesce in a gubernatorial pardon. Ah yes, but the members of the board are named by the governor. Which means that although Bush has a little camouflage working for him, in fact he is seen as the man who will decide whether Karla Faye Tucker dies at midnight on January 30.

The case has mostly to do, of course, with women. Should they be put to death? There are other factors, contingently relevant. Tucker began using marijuana at age 8, went to heroin at 17, and turned to prostitution to support her drug habit. Question: Did the drugs transfigure her true nature, adding up to a reason for clemency?

Tucker took part in a crime of extraordinary brutality. There were two victims of her and her male collaborator (a man, since dead of natural causes). A recitation of the details of the crime she committed makes the reader bloodthirsty for revenge.

But the case hangs on her sex. The last time Texas executed a woman was during the Civil War. The last time anybody executed a woman was, 1984, in North Carolina, by lethal injection.

Do the figures reflect the incidence of murders committed by women?

Murders committed by women are dramatically fewer. Still, there are seven women on Texas' death row right now. That's just under 2 percent of the total (400) there, but it means that if Bush is going to be influenced critically by the sex of Karla Tucker, he is going to walk into the identical bind at least seven times, assuming he is re-elected next year.

Now here are a couple of considerations that are politically fretful. The politically correct position is that men and women are equal in respect of everything that bears on civil, or indeed military, life. What this appears to tell us is that no latitudinarian consideration of any kind is to be given to Tucker's being a woman.

Agreed?

Well, not exactly. There is no way to get rid of the strain on psychological predispositions that twangs when anomalous situations confront us. The mother in South Carolina who sent her two sons to drown a couple of years ago committed a crime infinitely more horrifying, in public sensibility, than if the murderer had been a man. The prospect of a woman soldier killed by an enemy bayonet while wearing front-line combat is more dismaying than the identical thing happening to a man—don't try to reason with this; simply accept that it is so.

And then we touch upon an unmentionable: Karla Tucker is a born-again Christian. If her sentence were commuted, what would the American Civil Liberties Union say? Nothing. But what would the ACLUers be thinking? Right: a violation of the First Amendment. True separation of church and state means that no governor should incline toward clemency for anyone merely because that person has embraced religion. Amen.

We normal people are entitled to believe that this is hogwash, preferring to believe that clemency by a secular institution is understandable, and that someone who has convincingly embraced Christianity can be presumed to have gone at least part way in atoning for sins committed.

But of course there'd be a popular reaction against what might be thought of as a penitentiary scam. When Charles Colson embraced Christianity while in prison, there were boos of ridicule. Hardly credible now, after a generation's exemplary life as head of The Prison Fellowship.

So, if you were George W.'s political adviser, what would you counsel? The same thing George W.'s religious counselor would urge on him?

Universal Press Syndicate

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LESS DESIRABLE

Sir, - The story of a group of secular families in a newly developed neighborhood of Pardes Hanna, "From suburban dream to battleground", who unexpectedly found themselves living as neighbors to a group of religious families stands in stark contrast to that of three Arab women, "Unwanted Neighbors," whose West Jerusalem rented apartment was once again firebombed on December 5.

Why did the Association for Civil Rights in Israel become involved and take a stand in the case of the three Arab women and not in the Pardes Hanna case? Are religious Jews as neighbors less desirable than Arab neighbors? Do they have less of a right to live wherever they desire? It is inconceivable that one person or group should be allowed to live wherever they want while another person or group is denied that right.

We may not agree with how others live their lives and we may not even like their lives and we may not even like them as neighbors, but that is the price of living in a democracy. If someone doesn't like his neighbors, in a democracy he always has the freedom to move.

DANIEL GOTTLIEB

Ra'anana.

MONEY WASTED

Sir, - At the same time as we saw on television the plight of people suffering from terrible diseases and not being able to get the lifesaving medicine because there is just not enough money, MK's were running around to finish their annual budget to furnish their home offices—mainly with electronic goods, such as refrigerators, stereos, videos and TVs. And then I remember Knesset

Speaker Dan Tichon's renovation of his Knesset bathroom, with the help of his wife, the renovation of the prime minister's official residence, the upgrading of the prime minister's travel budget by millions of shekels, and the upkeep of the prime minister's wife's two offices with all that entails.

One can, of course, always put the blame on previous governments but this one promised to do things better: till now it has only done worse.

So far, we are saddled with a bumbling and incompetent government and a bespecked premier.

HETTY MAHLER

Haifa.

PRESSING NEEDS

Sir, - The present crisis about finding the money to pay for lifesaving medicines is a vital test of our humanitarian and social values. An immediate temporary solution can be found in a tax which cannot under any circumstances be considered a burden on the underprivileged and which will probably be readily agreed to by the great majority of those who will pay the tax.

I suggest a small surcharge to be levied on every cellular telephone call. The income from this surcharge should be placed in a special fund which can be applied by the treasury to the most pressing needs of the moment, in this case subsidizing the life saving drugs presently under discussion.

The treasury should be enabled to apply the monies in this fund to other emergency needs from time to time.

MAURICE OSTROFF

Ra'anana.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 23, 1932, The Palestine Post reported at length on the second graduation ceremony of the Hebrew University held before a notable gathering of scholars, prominent residents and visitors.

50 years ago: On December 23, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that there was a stalemate at the UN where it was still doubtful whether the planned Commission for the Implementation of Partition in Palestine would be able to hold its first session on January 7, 1948.

There was continued shooting and sniping in Haifa. The Galilee settlements north of the Hula had been completely cut off from the rest of the country by a curfew. In Jerusalem Hamekasaber buses got through to the Old City without casualties. Bullets embedded in their armor plating were kept as souvenirs by some passengers. Arabs desecrated Jewish graves on the Mount of Olives. Alexander Zvieli

صكنا عن الارامل

A face-lift for the millennium

Despite severe budget constraints, Nazareth is trying to give itself a makeover for the year 2000 by restoring historic buildings and facades. Officials hope a joint project with an Italian restoration school will be followed by others, Judith Sudilovsky writes.

On a recent warm autumn afternoon in Nazareth, strains of Italian pop music could be heard coming through the windows of the Mensa Christi Church — a church that had stood silent for 20 years.

"It's not so appropriate for a church, but we like it," says Italian restoration student Loredana Dolce, 27, grinning sheepishly from the top level of scaffolding, her head just two meters from the domed roof of the church.

Dolce and 11 other Italian students have spent four months restoring the 136-year-old church as their final course project for the Venice School of Restoration. Their presence in Nazareth is part of a collaborative effort in the preparations for the year 2000.

The director of the Nazareth Department of Antiquities and Restoration, Sharif Sharif, is thrilled. "The neighbors never thought anything about this church, now they see people have come from abroad to work on it and so they themselves are beginning to take an interest," says Sharif. "The municipality sees people from abroad coming here, and they're beginning to see there's a possibility of restoring historical buildings even if there isn't money in the budget for it."

As the City of Nazareth prepares to celebrate 2000 it is also attempting to give itself a face-lift through the restoration of various

old buildings and building facades, although the budget for such cosmetic improvements is sorely lacking.

Mensa Christi, which is owned by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, fell into disrepair after the last caretaker left 20 years ago.

The church, whose name means "Table of Christ," was originally built in 1860, constructed in the baroque style by Italian craftsman on the site where, according to legend, Jesus had eaten with his disciples after his resurrection using a hard block of chalk as his table.

An earlier chapel stood on the same spot from 1781 until it was destroyed in 1859, although the location was reported as a popular pilgrim site as early as 1628 where some claimed to have seen the imprint of the body of Jesus on the rock.

Sharif believes the meal mostly likely took place in Tabgha, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee where there is also a Franciscan church called Mensa Christi. But over the years the legend's location became linked to Nazareth as well.

The Venice School of Restoration normally requires its students to do field work for their final project. The school's top 12 final-year students are working on the project, which they plan to complete this month.

Mensa Christi was chosen for the project for several logistic reasons: it was small enough for work

to be completed within a short time, and it is located along the new pedestrian walkway starting from the new promenade near the Salesian Convent on a hilltop in the northern end of Nazareth, leading down to the old marketplace which Nazareth hopes will be completely renovated by 2000.

In addition, the restoration of the church would involve stucco work, wall painting and restoration of terra-cotta and limestone — all specialties of the school; the restoration work would not disturb anyone; and finally, it would provide the school with a partner willing to help contribute financially to the project.

The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land agreed to pay for the students' room and board, while the School of Restoration of Venice paid for their tickets and all scientific material not available in Israel.

The Municipality of Nazareth foots the bill for local travel expenses, materials purchased locally, clearing the land around the church and management of the entire project. The total cost: \$500,000.

Even before the hands-on part of the project could begin, a great deal of work had to be carried out in the laboratories in Venice: there were pigmentation studies of the original paint to find colors as similar to the original as possible, and there was a scientific analysis of the mortar and stones, the struc-



Nazareth's 136-year-old Mensa Christi Church was chosen for restoration, in part, because of its location along a new pedestrian walkway. (Debbie Hill)



In working on the Mensa Christi Church, students of the Venice School of Restoration try to retain the original quality of the Italian craftsmanship. (Debbie Hill)

A new account of an old star

By LAURA KING

"There came wise men from the East... The star, which they saw in the east, went before them till it came and stopped over where the young child was." — Matthew 2:9

The brilliant beacon that plays a starring role in the biblical Christmas story could have been a real astronomical event as well as a poetic symbol, scholars say.

The book of Matthew describes a brightly shining star that guided wise men bearing gifts on a long journey that ended in Bethlehem, the traditional birthplace of Jesus. Biblical scholars and astronomers say there are a variety of possible scientific explanations for such a sustained and glowing light in the heavens, including a comet, a nova, or the close alignment of certain planets as viewed from Earth.

"Some would be inclined to see it as the providential timing of natural phenomena — and this would apply to many of the miracles described in the Bible," said Jim Fleming, head of the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies, a research institute and pilgrimage center.

Bethlehem, today a town of 50,000, bears scant resemblance to the hilltop stone village it was in biblical times, or to its tranquil depiction on Christmas cards today. The central area of Manger Square, which abuts the 4th century Church of the Nativity, is clogged with tour buses and pocked by construction sites.

But once away from Bethlehem's blaring center, a quality of timelessness prevails: stony hills, olive groves, herds of wandering sheep — and the cold, star-sprinkled night sky.

Efforts to match up the biblical account of the star of Bethlehem with astronomical events documented elsewhere are complicated by questions about the precise date

of Jesus' birth.

The gospels of Luke and Matthew both put the birth sometime during the reign of King Herod, between 37 and 4 BCE, Fleming said. With that as a time frame, several possibilities emerge, according to astronomers.

Halley's comet, which returns every 75 or 76 years, would have been visible in the night skies around 10 BC, with a trailing tail that could have appeared to point in the direction of Bethlehem.

The comet theory is bolstered by a reference in Matthew to the wise men seeing the star twice, Fleming says. Halley's comet is visible for several weeks, then passes behind the sun and reappears.

Professor Moshe Guelman, director of the Space Research Institute at the Technion, said of all the possible astronomical events, a comet would be likeliest to cause a long-lasting, highly visible glow.

Given less credence is the possibility of a nova, or a new star, which would appear initially brilliant and then fade within a few months. One was documented by Chinese astronomers around 5 BCE.

Other astronomical occurrences during the reign of King Herod merit attention, scholars say. Astronomers found that in 7 BCE, Jupiter and Saturn would have appeared very close together, casting a bright combined glow similar to that of a single large star. The following year, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were also closely aligned.

A similar alignment of Jupiter and Saturn occurred in October of 1991, affording modern-day stargazers with a biblical bent the chance to imagine how the journey could have unfolded.

Fleming, originally of Portland, Oregon, said he used the occasion to retrace the path of the wise men, who stopped in Jerusalem before going on to Bethlehem. Because of the way the modern-day road rises, then takes a turn just outside

town, the light actually appeared to stop moving over Bethlehem, he said.

For most believers, scientific theories about the star may be interesting, but don't really affect the Christmas story's significance.

"From a symbolic point of view, the story of the wise men and the star is a link to a long

chain of prophecies in the Old Testament," said Father Jerome Murphy O'Connor, a Roman Catholic biblical scholar in Jerusalem.

"Every aspect of it is evocative," Besides, he said, "we can all identify with a message of hope, and the successful end to a difficult journey." (AP)

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mental conditions and the construction techniques.

Among the problems the students had to deal with was rising damp which left salt residue on the walls, which in turn dislodged the plaster.

In the course of the restoration the students discovered that repairs had been carried out in the church twice before, but with no attempt to retain the original quality of the Italian craftsmanship of the church.

Following an earthquake 20 years ago, cement had been used to repair cracks in the wall, damaging the plaster. The original wall paintings had been painted over twice with no attempt to retain the original art work.

While removing the newer paint from one wall, the students discovered a painting of a window, giving a sense of symmetry to the chapel because of the real window on the opposite wall.

An 1876 painting of Jesus dining with his disciples, which has also been restored, will be returned to its place in a niche behind the revered chalk rock.

"This is part of the historical center of Nazareth. It represents the European architecture in the second half of the 19th century," says Sharif. "One of the reflections of the European penetration here was the architecture and the monuments. This is part of our architectural heritage, it is an element we have to conserve."

"One of the reflections of the European penetration in the area is the architecture and monuments. This is part of our architectural heritage, an element we have to conserve."

—Sharif Sharif, Department of Antiquities

fountain outside the walls of the church which provided water for residents, which the municipality would like to restore. The city is also trying to convince the Franciscans to lower or remove the high wall surrounding the church which prevents passersby from seeing the building.

Because the church is private

property, there is no guarantee that after the work has been completed the Franciscans will agree to open

Restoration of these historical buildings would provide other attractions for the tourist coming to Nazareth, says Sharif, and they would not necessarily have to escape from the city so quickly once they completed the mandatory visits to the two main churches.

For Sharif the restoration plans are more than just a project to bring in tourists.

He studied for 15 years with international groups in Italy but was unable to carry out such restoration projects at home, Sharif comments. "Suddenly, you find yourself working on such a project in your city. I call this happiness, when you succeed in something you wanted to do for a long time."

Bethlehem boom town, Page 14

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What a drag

When it was announced last month that pop diva Dana International was going to represent Israel in the Eurovision Song Contest, everyone was afluster. If you've never heard of Dana or perhaps have seen her and naively believe that she is just another local songstress, she is in fact, a former bar-mitzva boy named Yaron Cohen, who underwent a sex-change operation many years ago. Since then, the controversy surrounding the choice of Dana has temporarily died down. But one can bet that the debate will flare up again as the international event nears.

One troupe of men-dressed-as-women, the B'not Pessia quartet, have become the rage. The group combines drag and political satire weekly on Channel 1's *Closing the Week* (yes, our tax dollars are going to pay for their lipstick). In their performances, we have seen State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and — how could they resist? — Sara Netanyahu. I must confess, I just don't understand drag queens. I have no opposition to men wanting to be women. I could see, even with all its discomfort, envying the ability to give birth, being permitted to be vulnerable and nurturing, to cry in public and all those other feminine privileges. But none of that is what seems to appeal to drag queens. The stuff they revel in — the costume aspect of womanhood — is exactly the kind of thing that annoys me and many of the women I know.

Homefront



Allison K. Sommer

We've already had indications that she is going to draw as much attention abroad as she does at home. The BBC has found her a suitable subject for profile, and that is just the first of many foreign news outlets likely to be interested in how such a creature could emerge from the Holy Land.

Clearly unhappy by the choice — though they would never watch Eurovision any way — are haredi leaders who call the choice shameful. Actually, she is one of the few female singers these men can listen to. When she first staged in popularity in Israel, a rabbi ruled that Orthodox men, who are not permitted to hear a woman's singing voice, can listen to Dana.

Dana's success highlights how drag queens and transsexuals have become such an indispensable part of today's culture. The trend was given international screen play in the hit film *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, released three years ago, which depicted three drag queens with hearts of gold making their way across the Australian outback. A Hollywood copycat movie soon followed. The ripple effect locally created a demand for blue-and-white drag queens, and the fringe clubs in Tel Aviv that feature Israeli men lip-synching the hits of standard drag-queen favorites like Barbra Streisand and Bette Midler — and adding a local flavor by doing Rita, Ofra Haza and Yaffa Yarkoni as well. Theo came the success of Dana who, despite the fact that she has "crossed over" to womanhood in terms of her biology, still maintains the over-the-top sensibility of a drag performer.

I must confess, I just don't understand drag queens

Does any woman living a full, busy life really have time to put on heavy make-up, figure-shaping underwear, high heels, stockings, and a body-bugging spandex top and miniskirt? True, a small minority of women — many of whom can be found in New Jersey, Los Angeles, Bat Yam and southern reaches of Tel Aviv — do dress this way on a daily basis. But most don't. The tabloid press is full of unflattering snapshots of the world's great beauty queens caught looking drab-looking in the supermarket or the drugstore. They are willing to take the risk of these photos being taken — anything to avoid having to put on their mascara.

The only reason I can see for the drag queens enjoying all this irritating, uncomfortable ultragrilliness business so much is that they do it on special occasions: when they are on stage. When they are not performing, I'll bet they prefer to just throw on jeans and a T-shirt and head outside. If they felt an obligation to gussy themselves up into a full-scale queero every day, I doubt it would be such a thrill.

Instead, getting dressed would be what it is for actual women — a real drag.



Sea World? No, it's just one of the attractions at America's largest shopping mall: a simulated Pacific shore with live seals.

It's a mall world, after all

By SUE MANNING

A trip to this mighty mall can strip you of your dollars and sense.

You can touch a sea cucumber, listen to the stars, smell like Elizabeth Taylor, watch a movie in 54 places, or eat as fast as or as fancy as you please.

Described as "regional," "discount," "interactive," "mega" and "super," the year-old Ontario Mills Mall in Ontario, California is seeking to redefine the meaning of the American shopping mall.

During the first 10 months of 1997, the mall drew 14 million visitors. Disneyland drew a record 14.2 million people in 12 months in 1995, according to *Amusement Business Magazine*. About 7,300 people work at the mall.

Some say the best and the wildest is yet to come, since this will be the mall's first real Christmas (only a few stores were open for the US's busiest shopping time last year).

This year, there are no vacancies. And four million people are expected to visit the mall's 237 retailers by January 1. Ontario Mills was the largest retail complex completed in the US in 1996, with 182,000 sq. meters of buildable area on 165 acres, some 65 kms east of Los Angeles.

The Mills Corp. in Arlington, Virginia, operates six other mighty malls, as well as 11 community shopping centers, across

the US. Other super malls are planned in California, Texas, New Jersey, North Carolina and Tennessee.

"People were getting bored with malls," said Ontario Mills General Manager Jim Mance. "We were not overmalled. I think we were overcopied. You can't keep copying, cookie-cutting or rubber-stamping malls. You have to come up with something different."

The average visitor to the Mills mall spends more than three hours — because it is different, he said. Shoppers rave about prices at the mall, a combination of discount outlet stores, off-price retailers and specialty stores.

"I saved a small fortune," said San Diego shopper Debra Rawls. She paid \$169 for 10 shirts and two pairs of pants.

"I saved over \$100," she said. There are manufacturer's outlets, specialty store outlets like Group USA, department stores like J.C. Penney, super savings stores and off-price retailers like Marshalls.

For bargain-hungry upper crusters, there is a Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet and Off Rodeo Drive Beverly Hills, with the likes of Bernini, Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Gianni Versace, Hugo Boss, Moschino, Sbauna Stein and Giorgio Armani.

For weary visitors or oon-shoppers, there is the 30-screen AMC theater or the iWERKS four-story screen. Or, within walking

distance but just off mall property, is the 22-screen Edwards theater complex. Edwards also runs an IMAX theater, which uses large screens, special effects and can project 3-D images.

Or you can enter another zone in magic motion machines, racers, rockets, or watercraft, or on skates, skis, skateboards, motorcycles or prop cycles.

Television screens, loud music, singing animals, dancing plants and light shows keep the enclosed mall jumping.

There are one million shoppers who live within 16 kms of the mall, said Mance, 52, who started as an architect building malls. But credit card receipts show that the mall is drawing people from 160 kms around. "Our studies tell us that 56 percent of our customers come from beyond 30 kms," he said.

The mall hosts 200 tour buses a month and even has a director of tourism. Japanese tourists are so profitable for the mall that the 14-member management staff took Japanese lessons, and Sunday mall hours were expanded to catch tour buses headed from L.A. International Airport to Las Vegas. The Wolfgang Puck Cafe does a great box lunch business during those bus stops.

The average domestic shopper spends \$109 per visit, while the average international visitor spends \$435 per stop, Mance said. (Associated Press)

GRAPEVINE

By GRLEER EY CASHMAN

When in Paris...

When in Rome, do as the Romans do, but when in Paris, rely on your instincts. Which is exactly what Marty Pazner, wife of Avi Pazner, Israel's ambassador to France, did when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright came for breakfast last Thursday.

Deciding that the customary French fare of croissants and coffee was inadequate, Pazner served up camflakes, bagels and lox and Danish pastries, which were consumed with gusto by both the Americans and the Israelis. As far as the breakfast was concerned, there was no point of dispute.

THE RATIO of females to males attending the upcoming Fifth International Conference of Jewish Ministers and Members of Parliament in Jerusalem during the first week of January is significantly higher than that of the Knesset, where only nine of the 120 legislators are women.

Of the 75 participants who have registered to date, 13 are women. The distaff list currently comprises Teresa de Jesus Cohen dos Santos, Angola's



Limor Livnat An influential communicator. (Joan Haver)

KNOWN to have a penchant for tête-à-tête dinners in luxury restaurants, Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, managed to sneak one in at the Bristol Hotel in Paris after checking in close to midnight.

The couple sat in an intimate corner of the hotel restaurant and ate a kosher meal, which was brought in from outside.

REGARDLESS of where she stands in the Likud popularity polls, Communications Minister Limor Livnat is definitely No. 1 in the field which her ministry represents.

The media and communications magazine *Tikshoret* has placed Livnat first on its list of the 100 most influential people in the communications industry.



Lucky: Shimon Shetreet was a four-time raffle winner at a recent benefit dinner.

AND SPEAKING of communications, Livnat's predecessor in office, Prof. Shimon Shetreet, must have been wired for luck last Saturday night when he attended the NIS 500-per-plate benefit dinner at Jerusalem's Shalom Hotel in aid of the Frankfurter Center for the Aged.

When the raffles were being drawn, Shetreet won a dinner for two at a local restaurant. A few moments later, his name was called again.

His second win was a cellular phone.

He'd hardly walked away from the podium when he was summoned back to accept his third win — a dinner for two in one of the capital's most prestigious restaurants.

And as if that wasn't enough, he also won the most expensive prize in the draw — a round trip to London.

Organized by socialite and gossip columnist Sara Davidovich, together with fellow socialite and gossip writer Eyal Salamsky, the event was in some respects a family affair. Davidovich's husband, Mati, like Shetreet, bought several raffle tickets and won two subscriptions to the Jerusalem Theater.

However, he didn't spend as much as Shalom Hotel owner Micha Levy, who not only donated the use of the premises and the dinner but also shelled out NIS 1,500 for a silver kiddush cup that was being auctioned, and an additional NIS 1,500 to hear Mati Davidovich sing.

A musician with the IDF orchestra when doing his mandatory army service, Davidovich could quite conceivably have become a professional entertainer had he not embarked on a career as an investment broker.

One of the three Davidovich offspring was also drawn into the arena of community service. Ori Davidovich, co-owner of a computer hardware, software and service company, donated two Internet courses to the raffle.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who was persuaded to act as the auctioneer, gave up after selling two items, explaining that most of the people in the room were his friends and he wanted things to stay that way.

His place on the podium was taken over by MK Rafi Eyal, chairman of the social welfare lobby in the Knesset, but not before Olmert made a personal contribution of NIS 500.

Deputy Minister of Health; Dr. Elisabeth Pittermann and Anna Elisabeth Haselbach, members of the Austrian Parliament; Dr. Ana Kessler, a member of the Argentinian parliament; Canadian parliamentarians Elinor Caplan and Sheila Finestone; Lily Peres of Santiago, Chile; Rebecca Greenspan, vice-president and construction minister of Costa Rica; Eleene Tevdoradze, a parliamentarian from Tbilisi, Georgia; Ruth Marjash, a Latvian MP; Dutch MP Hanneke Gelderblom-Lankhoust; South African MP Dr. Ruth Rabinowitz; and from the US, Liz Brater, state representative for Michigan, and Florence Shapiro, state senator for Texas.

In addition to meeting with their Israeli counterparts, the visitors will meet with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Netanyahu, opposition leader Ehud Barak, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg, various mayors, leaders of industry, and prominent business executives.

WHILE controversy continues to mount over whether jubilee celebrations should be canceled and the funds transferred to social welfare needs, Eitan Dvori, the director of Keren Hayesod Study Missions, is going ahead with plans to reconstruct a detention camp in Cyprus along the lines of those in which illegal immigrants named back by the British were forced to live.

Cypriot Ambassador Enripides Evrievades is equally excited about it. Dvori is looking for people who spent time in these camps



Kevin Costner had plans to make a movie with Princess Diana.

to describe life there to participants of Keren Hayesod missions traveling via Cyprus to Israel.

WHEN Kevin Costner announced after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, that he and the princess had been planning to make a film together, the general reaction, particularly at Buckingham Palace, was that Costner was using Diana's tragic death to gain publicity for himself.

But now it seems that Costner had been misjudged. Diana's former sister-in-law, Sarah (Fergie) Ferguson, the ex-wife of the duke of York, has confirmed the story.

During a visit to Hollywood several months ago, Fergie accepted Costner's invitation to a candlelit dinner and discovered that romance was not on his mind. He was much more interested in securing Diana's phone number, and Fergie obliged. Costner called Diana, shared his dream with her, and she evidently had agreed to help him make it a reality.

Too warm-hearted to give Dad the cold shoulder

Dear Ruthie, My father-in-law, whom most of my husband's family consider "senile" or "just plain dotty," is a sweet man, who has a tendency to run on a bit of the mouth.

From the moment I met my husband's father, he grasped that I was an easy target for his ramblings. At first, I was too polite to move away from him when he sat down next to me and dominated my time, my ear, and my shoulder. (The rest of the family had no qualms about putting on an abrupt, almost rude, stop to this.)

But as time went on, I began to grow weary of spending every visit engrossed in one-sided conversations with my father-in-law. Yet I still felt, as I do now, that he deserved respect, especially since he is a kind, well-meaning person.

The problem is now complex. My mother-in-law passed away last year. My father-in-law was heartbroken and has become even more talkative as a result. My husband, his

sister and his brother, as well as other family members, have even less patience for him now than they had before.

We have all been discussing the question of what is to become of him now that he is living alone. Everyone has come to the conclusion that the most appropriate place for him to live would be with my husband and me — since I am the only one who "can tolerate being around him for long stretches."

On one hand, I feel it is cruel to speak of this man as though he were an imbecile, without a will of his own. In addition, I feel sorry for him and think that perhaps they are right. On the other, I am afraid to agree to having him move in with us, as my husband is sure to shirk responsibility for his

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

father's well-being, leaving it up to me. What can I do? Interested in Outcast In-law Somewhere in Israel

Dear Put-Upon, Your manners and sense of duty are as admirable as they are appropriate. It is for this reason that you should be extra wary about taking your father-in-law into your home on a permanent basis.

Your husband and the rest of his family may indeed be rude. But they seem to possess a certain self-preservation which you lack. Apparently, they know how to set limits with this man — something which you have never learned to do; something which would have served you in good stead at this stage.

Ironically, the very trait which is responsible for your husband's family considering you to be the "solution" to the problem of

what to do with your father-in-law is the one that makes you the worst choice possible. The pattern of relations which has evolved between you and your father-in-law is not conducive to emotional health. Particularly your own.

If you are seriously considering accepting this burden, you will have no alternative but to assume a thicker skin in relation to your relative. Perhaps your husband could give you a few pointers. After all, it is not actual familial duty that he shuns — if he is willing to have his father move into his home. It is simply being "bombarded" by what you describe as his father's "ramblings," which he does not permit to permeate his "personal space."

Being dutiful is one thing. Allowing duty to dominate your time, your ear and your shoulder is quite another.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il

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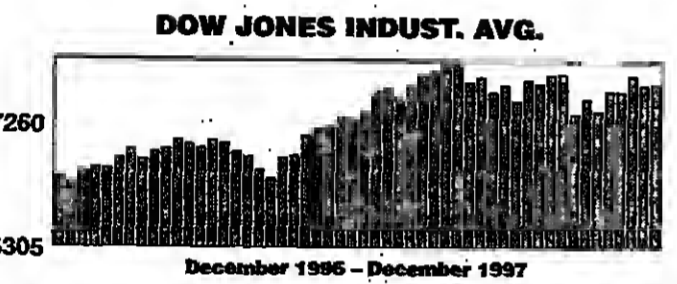
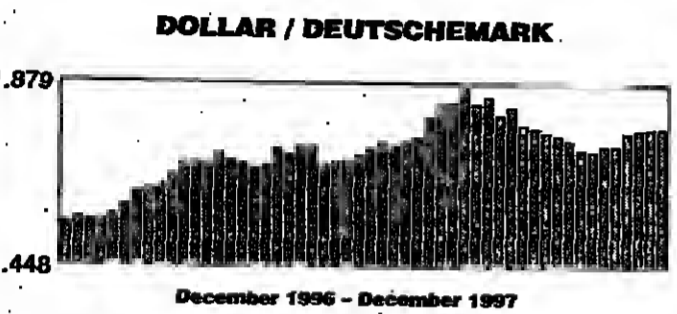
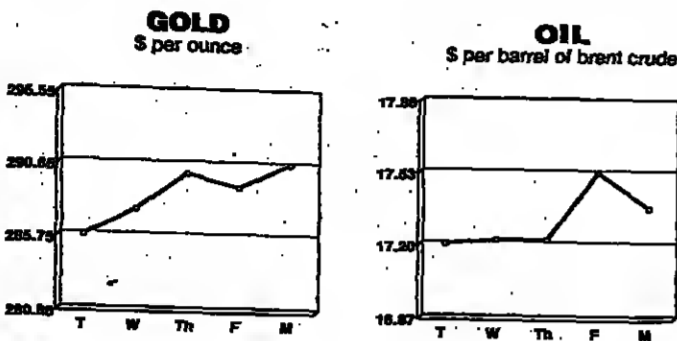
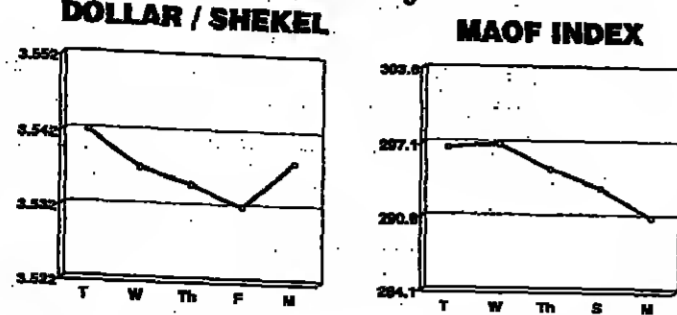
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MARKETS

in brief



BMW, Tecnomatix pen "multi-million dollar" deal

Tecnomatix Technologies of Herzliya yesterday said it reached a "multi-million dollar, three-year agreement to provide BMW with its computer-aided production engineering (CAPE) software.

The contract with BMW is Tecnomatix's largest European deal to date.

"We are very pleased that BMW selected Tecnomatix as its CAPE partner; this selection reflects BMW's long-term commitment to our technology," CEO Harel Beit-On said in a statement.

Tecnomatix's CAPE software allows production engineers to create virtual machines and production equipment models, interactively arrange them into a virtual manufacturing line, and manipulate them to perform on-screen manufacturing activities. The software is designed to shorten the time it takes to develop and manufacture a new car.

In addition to cars, the company's software is used in the making of airplanes and devices for heavy industry. Earlier this year, the company also recently announced plans to supply its virtual manufacturing software to clean up the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

MKs to discuss foreign workers

Against the backdrop of growing unemployment, the Knesset's House Committee yesterday held a closed discussion on the issue of foreign workers.

The committee appointed Labor MK Ophir Pines and Likud MKs Meir Sheerit and Maxim Levy to work out a formula to determine the desired number of foreign workers. The MKs will bring their findings back to the committee for further discussion.

Batsheva Tsor

R&D expenditure to rise 2.2% in '97

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

National expenditure on research and development in the civilian sector is expected to total NIS 7.6 billion in 1997, a 2.2 percent increase over 1996, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

In 1995, the most recent year for which the statistics are available, Israel's civilian R&D expenditures totalled 2.2% of gross domestic product, ranking the country No. 6 out of all the OECD countries.

At 3% of GDP, Sweden allocates relatively more money than any OECD country, followed by Japan

(2.7%), Switzerland (2.6%), Germany (2.4%), and Finland (2.4%). The US ranks seventh, spending 2.1% of GDP on research and development, while Italy, Spain and Greece ranked lowest on the list.

The R&D expenditures include the goods and services produced in Israel for civilian R&D in the industrial and other business sectors, universities, the government, and a variety of research institutes.

The business sector will record R&D expenses of NIS 3.5b., nearly half of all the money going to R&D, while the remainder will be reported by the other sectors.

Forty-four percent of the NIS 1.025b. the government spends on civilian R&D goes to general knowledge applications, 37% goes to the industrial sector, 10% goes to agriculture, 4% goes to social services, and 5% goes to "other."

Gibor Sabrina to shut down

Histradrut makes overture to keep the factory open

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK and DAVID HARRIS

Gibor Sabrina Textile Enterprises will close down and dismissal letters will be sent to all 700 workers, Tel Aviv District Court Judge Yehoshua Levit ruled yesterday morning.

In response, the Histradrut yesterday began working to avert the closure and offered to transfer NIS 2 million to the company to keep the factory open for an additional six to 12 months, according to Histradrut Chairman Amir Peretz. This will allow workers to search for work with dignity, he said.

The total number of people who will be thrown out of work by closure, including those employed by subcontractors, is more than 1,000.

"If I were to put two collection boxes in the street right now and say to the citizens of Israel 'donate NIS 2 million to save 1,000 people even for six months,' it would take an hour to raise the money," said Peretz. "It's right to let the workers hunt for jobs before you throw them into the street."

"If this is an economy without a conscience, without a soul, then the bottom line doesn't interest me. If what we get is a balanced budget, an excellent inflation [rate], a wonderful trade deficit, but people are hungry for bread, none of it is worthwhile."

The court ruling to close the factory was made following the Treasury's conclusion that the debt-ridden firm can not survive economically and the subsequent decision not to give the company's creditors a financial guarantee to cover losses resulting from the factory's continued operation.

Earlier this year the company's secured creditors said they would approve the continued operation of the debt-ridden firm and help cover half of the losses, on condition that their losses will not exceed NIS 2m. Above this sum, the creditors are demanding financial guarantees as a condition for the continued operation of the firm.

"Under these circumstances I see no other alternative but to instruct the temporary liquidator

to close the company's plant and to send dismissal letters to the workers," said the judge.

The temporary liquidator will be in charge of guarding the company's assets.

At the hearing, the Histradrut's lawyer said the workers will not give in to the court's decision. "We can not give up 700 jobs.

The workers, the Histradrut and I will fight this," the lawyer said. A hearing to discuss the liquidation procedure has been set for March 9.

Neeman: State can't save a private enterprise

"Show me a way to make legal the granting of NIS 2m. to Gibor Sabrina and I will be happy to do it," Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said after the court ruled to close the textile factory.

Neeman was speaking during a lightning appearance at a Knesset State Control Committee meeting on unemployment and pensions in the public sector.

Committee chairman Yossi Katz said the Treasury should not be permitted to wait until unemployment reaches 200,000 - as the ministry's director-general Shlomo Slavin had predicted - before allowing for new growth in the economy. He demanded that Neeman give the committee details of immediate steps he is ready to take to end unemployment.

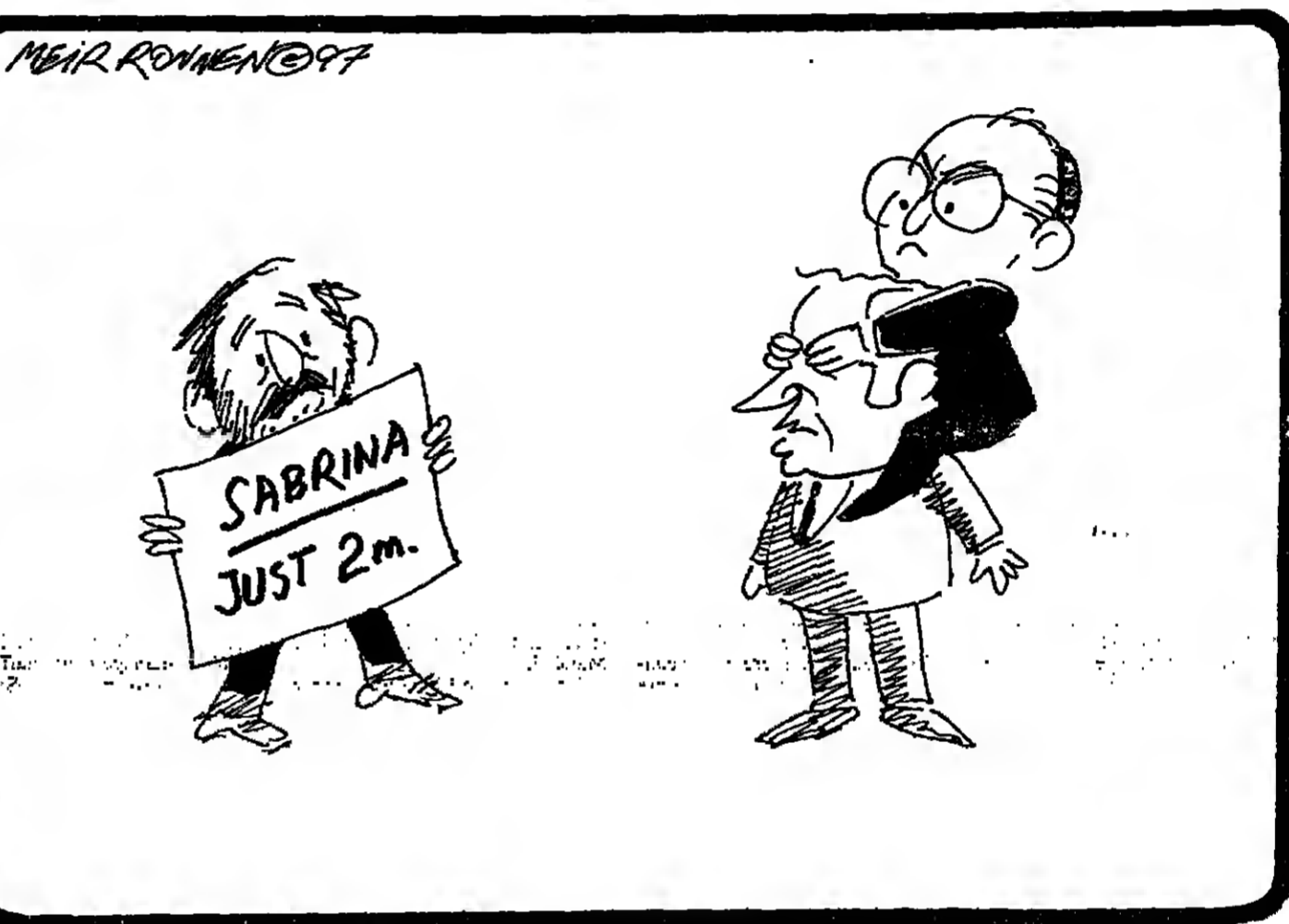
"I beg you to try to understand the plight of the workers," he appealed to Neeman. But Neeman denied there is any intention of

letting employment grow to 200,000. The current budget and economic policy are aimed at curbing unemployment already in the coming fiscal year, he said.

Asked by Meretz MK Ran Cohen why he is prepared to allow 1,100 workers at Gibor-Sabrina to be thrown into the streets, Neeman replied that the law does not permit the state to intervene to save private enterprises.

Because of pressures connected with the budget discussions, Neeman said he was forced to delay the debate on the issue in the committee until next month.

Meanwhile, two Labor MKs, Ofer Pines and Shalom Simhon, joined by MK Ahmed Sa'ad, (Hadash) appealed to the committee to support their call to oust Neeman from office over his failure to save the Gibor-Sabrina workers and over the unemployment situation. Batsheva Tsor



Arafat, PM not invited to Davos summit

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat are not invited to the Davos, Switzerland economic conference scheduled for next month, Gregory Blatt, a representative of the World Economic Forum, which is organizing the event, said yesterday.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres, Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Industry and Trade

Minister Natan Sharansky and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman are invited.

Blatt, who was here as a guest of Federation of Chambers of Commerce President Danny Gillerman, said that there is no boycott of Netanyahu or Arafat, but the policy of the forum is to invite different heads of state each year.

Netanyahu and Arafat had expressed interest in being invited to the event, considered to be the second most important annual economic

meeting, sources close to the leaders said.

However, given the state of the peace process and the politicization of last month's Qatar conference - also organized by the World Economic Forum - the event's planners decided that Davos would not focus on the Middle East.

Next month's meeting will concentrate on Latin America and the Far East, and heads of state from these regions have been invited. (Globes)

Clal offers to buy 11.53% of Clal Trading

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Clal Israel announced yesterday that it has offered to buy 11.53% of the shares of its subsidiary Clal Trading, traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The other 88.47% are already held by Clal.

The price for the company was set at NIS 14.86 per share, which is 28.3% above yesterday's closing share price. This price values the company at NIS 150 million, which is 24% higher than its equity capital.

In a statement, Clal Israel said

that the move will allow shareholders to exercise their options at a price which is relatively high despite the low trading activity in the share and the results of the company.

A Clal spokesman said the offer is in line with the company's strategic plan. According to the restructuring plan, announced earlier this year, Clal trading will enter information technology and exit its retail sales and marketing businesses. It was decided that Clal Trading will focus on computers and logistics.

Money supply down 4.3% in November

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Bank of Israel's M1 money-supply gauge dropped 4.3 percent in November, the central bank announced yesterday.

The money supply last fell by 2% in September, but rose 2.3% in October. The decline is the largest

recorded in 1997. The report follows last week's surprising decline of the November consumer price index, which decreased 0.3%.

The news of anti-inflationary trends sparked hope that the Bank of Israel may cut interest rates when it sets the key lending rate for January next week. Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel last changed interest rates in August, raising the rate by 0.7 percent to 13.4%.

Analysts predict the central bank will leave its key lending rate unchanged. "Despite expectations of lower inflation, I believe that Frenkel will leave the rates unchanged, as he prefers to wait until after the approval of the budget," said Hadar Oshrat at Ilanot Batsheva.

Korea, Thailand, Indonesia cut to 'junk' at Moody's

By ALEC D.B. MCCABE

HONG KONG (Bloomberg) - Asia's economic crisis deepened yesterday, as Moody's Investors Service Inc. cut the credit ratings of South Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia to below investment grade, sparking an immediate surge in borrowing costs.

The unprecedented move - which affects about \$275 billion in debt - cripples the cash-strapped region's ability to raise money from international investors. It raised the specter of thousands of corporate bankruptcies, sending Asian stock and currencies into a tailspin.

"They should have done it ages ago, at least put them on the 'watch' list," said Pierre Naim, who manages \$50m. in emerging market debt, including the Bahamas-based Rainbow Global High Yield Fund. "The rating agencies are no longer less pessimistic than the pessimists."

Since the downgrade announcement, the yield premium investors demand to own Asian corporate debt has risen by as much as two percentage points. Korea Development Bank's global bond due in 2006, which was yielding more than 500 basis points more than US Treasuries before the downgrade, is now yielding about 700 basis points more.

Korean financial markets tumbled after the downgrade. The won weakened to 1,712.5 won per dollar, adding to its almost 50-percent decline this year. The benchmark Kospi stock index fell 4.75 points, or 1.19 percent, to 395.44 points. The three-year corporate bond yield rose to a record high of 30% from Friday's 27.2%.

For many international investors, the cut in credit ratings means they will now have to sell bonds that have already fallen precipitously this year, as Asian currencies tumble. Many investment funds' own rules bar them from owning debt rated below investment grade.

"People are dumping the market, but they aren't looking at what they're selling," Naim said. Korea Electric Power's bonds due in 2003, as an example, are yielding 850 basis points more than Treasuries, a yield that Naim said is not justified.

"Show me a utility that has gone bust. There've been plenty on the brink, but Korea Electric is a cash cow," Naim said, who doesn't believe default is a prospect for the company. At worst, it would have to restructure its debt, he said.

Tokio Fire & Marine Insurance Co., Japan's largest insurance company, isn't allowed to own bonds rated below "BBB," two notches above where Korean sovereign debt is now rated. The company still owns Korean debt, an official said.

"The most sensible thing to do is to sell your bonds," said Hiroyuki Kotoku, Tokio Fire & Marine's portfolio manager for global investment. "But what may be sensible is often not practical. When everyone's trying to sell, you just can't find any buyers."

Granted, many Asian bonds were already trading at junk-bond levels before the announcement by Moody's. Thailand's Yankee bond due in 2007 is yielding 400 basis points more than Treasuries, up about 150 basis points from late

Number of jobless Druse, Arabs on the rise

By DAVID RUDGE

Unemployment has risen dramatically among Druse and Arabs in the past few months, especially as a result of the closure of textile factories.

Arab and Druse council heads charged that thousands of people had been thrown out of work, pushing the jobless rate in the two communities way above the national average.

"The situation is catastrophic," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the Forum of Arab Council Heads and chairman of Mash'had Local Council, near Nazareth.

"There are some places, like Rahat in the Negev and Ein Mahil, near Nazareth, where the unemployment rate is over 20 percent," said Suleiman.

"The situation is also bad in Shfaram, Nazareth, Mughar, Yirka, as well as Ein Mahil and Rahat where textile factories or sewing workshops have been shut down.

"About 40 places have been closed in the past two years. We are talking about 6,000 to 7,000 people who had employment and now they don't."

"The socioeconomic situation in the Arab sector was worse than elsewhere to start with so the effects of these redundancies is even more acute - and there are no alternatives," said Suleiman.

His comments were echoed by Beit Jann Local Council chairman Yusef Kabalao, who charged that the situation in Druse communities was equally as bad.

"Those who worked at Gibor Sabrina have also been sacked now, as well as those who worked in Yirka, Shfaram, Yanuch, Hurfeish and Beit Jann itself," said Kabalao.

"There are no industrial zones, either for heavy or light industry or high tech, in the Druse sector, so there are no alternatives. Kabalao maintained that the situation has been exacerbated in his own village because municipal workers had not yet received their November salaries.

"The municipal workers have been on strike for the past three days and justifiably so. The problem is that the government ministries have not transferred funds to us on time."

The Interior Ministry is pressing the local council for a recovery plan that will enable it to run municipal affairs more efficiently and reduce the deficit that has accumulated.

Kabalao said that a recovery plan has been drawn up, but he charged that the deficit did not justify holding back funds that were needed to pay workers' salaries.

In a related development, Labor MK Salah Tarif vowed to take "unparliamentary" measures to prevent the finance minister from speaking during the budget debate if the Treasury continues to refuse to help bail out Gibor-Sabrina.

Tarif, chairman of the Knesset Interior Committee, said hundreds of the concern's employees were Druse, who would be left with no other form of livelihood if it closed.

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Bethlehem: From 'little town' to boom town?

Within the context of a venerated past and a volatile present, Bethlehem is hoping to spruce itself up for a viable future

By PATRICIA GOLAN

No matter what the situation, it seems, tourists always go to Bethlehem on Christmas. This year, despite some cancellations, some 5,000 visitors are expected tomorrow evening and 10,000-12,000 on Christmas Day—about the same as in previous years. Bethlehem officials figure that by year's end, about 1.25 million visitors will have come to Bethlehem.

But these figures belie the severe damage done to the local tourism industry by the unstable political situation, and Bethlehem—one of the three essential Christian tourist sites—is hurting.

Tourism to Israel has dropped 15% in the last six months. Travel throughout the region was dealt yet another blow with the massacre of tourists by Islamic extremists last month in Egypt.

The occasional violence and Israeli closures of the area have nearly brought Bethlehem's only real industry—tourism—to its knees. Those tourists who do visit Bethlehem rarely stay in town for more than an hour. There's the requisite visit to the Church of the Nativity, a stop, perhaps, at a souvenir shop on the main highway, and they're whisked out of town.

Bethlehem officials blame Israeli tourism officials for discouraging tourists from staying in Bethlehem overnight, scaring off visitors by saying it is dangerous. Bethlehem merchants are furious that the larger souvenir businesses in town make deals with certain Israeli tour operators, in which the company and the tour guide get hefty kickbacks for making sure their groups go only to their shops.

Tourists are "led like sheep" into the large stores, complains George Baboun, who owns a shop around the corner from Nativity Square. He says the small shop owners don't get their fair share of what little tourism business there is.

Unemployment in the Bethlehem area is at its highest level ever. Several factories in the city of 50,000 have recently closed. The situation, says Baboun, is desperate. "The majority of the people in Bethlehem, and in this area, are living from tourists, whether hotels or

restaurants or souvenir shops or olive-wood or mother-of-pearl factories," explains Baboun. "Their lives are connected directly with the field of tourism; the quieter the situation will be, the better for them."

Quiet or not, the town center is, frankly, a dump. Western visitors expecting a sanitized Christmas-card Bethlehem are often shocked by the shabby Middle Eastern reality. So far, complain Bethlehem officials, none of the money pledged by international donors following the 1993 Oslo peace agreements to help the Palestinians build infrastructure projects has found its way to Bethlehem. The city has only 850 hotel rooms today; officials say 2,000 more rooms are needed by the year 2000.

A few new hotels and bank

buildings have been constructed in the last three years, including a luxurious six-story office building housing the Arab Bank and a Palestinian investment company. But this is all coming from private investments.

Now help for Bethlehem may be on the way, in time for the rapidly approaching millennium. The city has just launched "Bethlehem-2000," an ambitious plan for the rehabilitation of the town. Drawn up by local and UNESCO experts, the plan outlines 91 projects, mainly for improving infrastructure, such as sewage lines, electricity and roads. The money is to come from various countries but is separate from other funds pledged by the donor countries for the West Bank and Gaza.

Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser

says specific commitments for \$12 million in projects out of the estimated \$250m. price tag have already been made by Sweden, Canada, Spain, France, Greece and Japan. Major renovations of the central Manger Square are planned, including replacing the asphalt pavement—now full of exhaust-spewing tour buses—with a tiled piazza with trees and fountains. The ugly cement-block police station on the square will be torn down, and in its place will be a civic center including an auditorium and museum of art and religion. A new central bus station is in the advanced planning stages. Also slated to be rehabilitated are Star Street, the old Bethlehem market, and seven of the city's crumbling medieval archways.

Nasser says he's optimistic that

all this can be accomplished by 2000. "Bethlehem is going to be the most prosperous city vis-a-vis tourism, hotels, and all the services needed for the pilgrims. And we will have more tourists," he boasts.

Earlier this month in Paris at the annual conference of international donors, sponsored by the World Bank, representatives pledged \$750m. to the Palestinian authority for various infrastructure projects. The money is part of an initial \$3.8 billion five-year aid program pledged in 1993 by the international community at the start of the peace process. In addition, donors at the Paris meeting promised \$150m. in insurance for private investments in the Palestinian areas. World Bank officials referred to this as a kind of "political risk insurance" to reassure private investors

who may be wary about placing their money in the region. With repeated Israeli border closures imposed in the wake of terrorist attacks, investors from abroad are reluctant to sink money into projects when there's no assured free passage of goods—a situation as critical for Bethlehem as elsewhere.

Bethlehem economist Samir Hazboun conducts feasibility studies for potential foreign investors, mainly Palestinians living abroad. "At the end, the investors are asking us very difficult questions, like 'Can I travel freely here?' And we cannot answer this. The Israeli side is not making it easy. Even for investors with foreign passports, the Israeli authorities sometimes make difficulties. They're worried they will be returned."

Last August the group of American Jewish and Arab businessmen, known optimistically as Builders for Peace, shut its doors. Builders, with the encouragement of the US government, had promoted private funding for various projects in Gaza and the West Bank. But a combination of factors forced the group to fold its tents after only three years: endless delays and problems getting goods and supplies in and out of the Palestinian areas, the lack of basic Palestinian legal and commercial structures, and the refusal of US aid agencies to guarantee certain projects that were deemed too risky.

Some legal experts in the PA have been urging the Legislative Council to enact changes in the old Jordanian commercial laws to attract more investors. One of the problems is the lack of legal mechanisms for getting debt relief—something, says one Bethlehem PA official, that has discouraged investment from abroad. A plan for the construction of a Holiday Inn in Bethlehem, for example, was abandoned, says the official, when the backers could not get adequate guarantees for collecting possible future debts.

But all these obstacles do not seem to have intimidated a group of local and foreign Palestinian investors who are about to launch a grandiose plan to construct a

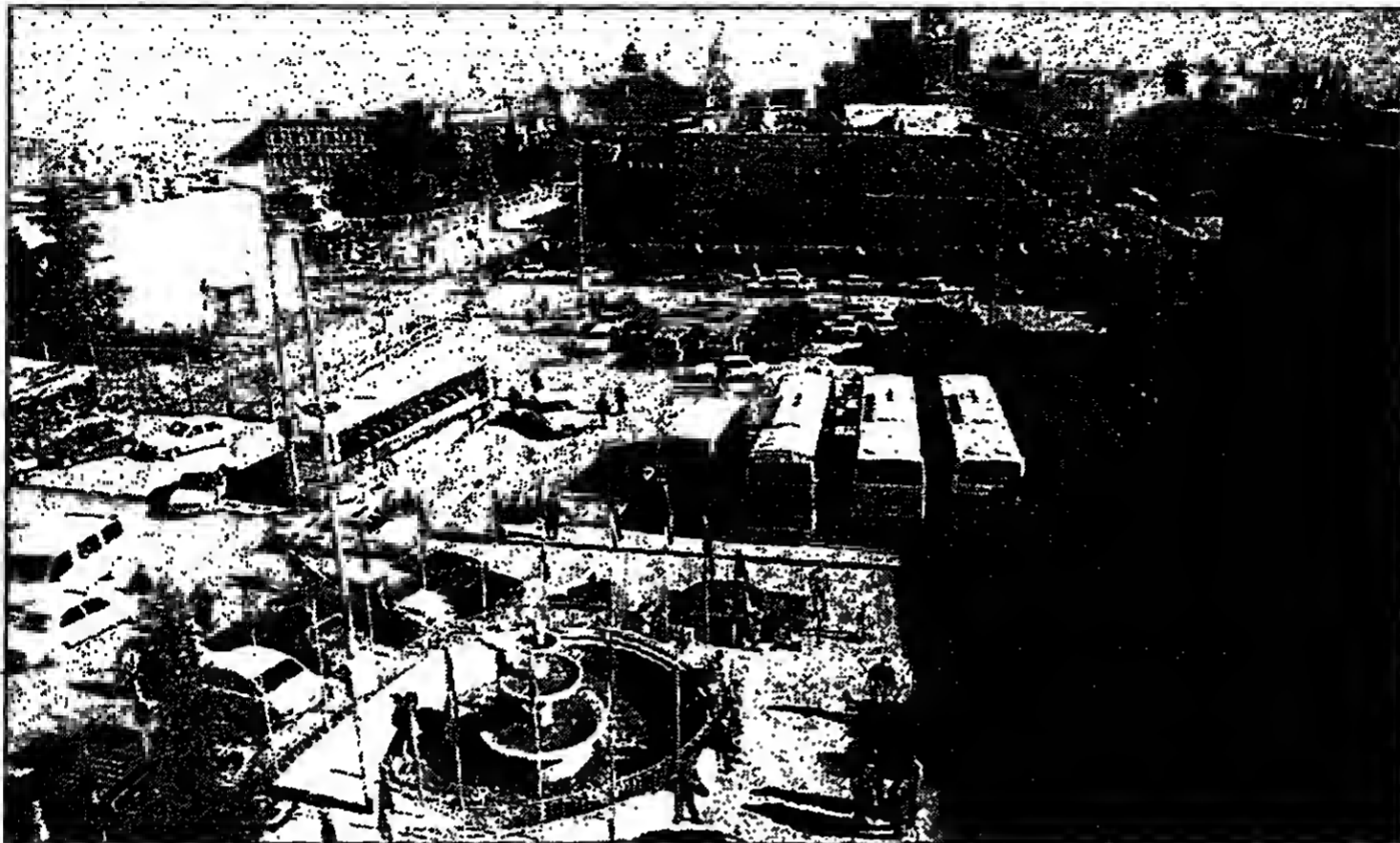
\$45m. five-star hotel and commercial complex in Bethlehem, to be managed by Intercontinental. The 250-room hotel will incorporate the turn-of-the-century Arab mansion, known as Beit Jisar, next door to Rachel's Tomb, on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem highway. The estate, with its Italian-crafted stone embellishments, castle-like turrets, and inlaid marble floors, will be completely renovated and serve as the main entrance to the hotel which will be built on the seven-dunam lot behind it.

The developer, the Palestine Tourism Investment Company, has made an agreement with the Palestinian Authority to construct a building on another site for the girls' school which now occupies the premises.

The company is a subsidiary of the Palestine Development and Investment Company (PadiCo), which has been mobilizing wealthy expatriate Palestinians for business projects in Gaza and the West Bank for three years. PadiCo shareholders include influential Palestinians with business empires in the Gulf and the West.

Palestine Tourism Investment Co. chairman Hamdi Abu Dayyeh says 60 percent of the investors in the Bethlehem Intercontinental project live abroad, many in North America. But Bethlehem already has several new hotels that stand empty most of the year for lack of tourists. What can the investors be thinking? Abu Dayyeh calls his company's project an "act of faith."

"You must remember that our investors came because of the peace process," he explains. "This peace, in their minds, is a new era for the Palestinian side that maybe has its ups and downs, but it's an irreversible process. They came here to build a new Palestine." Abu Dayyeh insists that Palestinian investors abroad are encouraged by the fact that local businessmen like him are willing to take risks. "We don't fit the picture of the perfect investment criteria. But we're saying, 'We'll take the risks, if you do.' We Palestinian investors have been living and investing here under dire circumstances and it hasn't stopped us," declares Abu Dayyeh.



Tourists will pour into Bethlehem's Nativity Square on Christmas Eve, but for most of the year the city is in the economic doldrums. Help may be on the way with 'Bethlehem-2000.'

(Brian Hengler)

Reaching for the stars

Gilat Satellite Networks has become a key player in the satellite communications industry

By NICKY BLACKBURN

It doesn't take much guesswork to realize how rapidly Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. is expanding. Drive down a half-finished road in the Kiryat Aryeh area of Petah Tikva and you soon get the picture. There, amid all the rubble and dust of a developing area, stand two huge and luxurious buildings, one blue, one green, which together cost Gilat some \$20 million.

While one block is already inhabited, staff members are already chomping at the bit to move into the other, which is nearing completion. If 14,880 sq. meters of new headquarters and manufacturing facilities fail to impress, then take a look at the figures. Founded in 1987, Gilat, which designs, manufactures, markets and supports Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite earth stations and related hub equipment and software, has managed in less than a decade to become a key player in the satellite communications industry.

In 1992, sales were \$5.5 million. By 1996, they reached \$75m. Estimates for 1997 suggest that sales will reach an all-time high of \$90-\$100m., while cash reserves have now reached \$100m., making Gilat richer than ever.

The research company Comsys, an expert on the VSAT industry, said: "Gilat's achievements over the past few years have been extremely impressive. It has managed to take a new VSAT technology into an established market and carve out a considerable market share."

Gilat, which is traded on the Nasdaq over-the-counter stock exchange and employs 400 people, was set up by five friends, four of whom met while serving in the IDF. "When we started it was just one floor of a building and six employees," says Yoel Gat, chairman, CEO and co-founder of Gat. "There were no venture capital companies around and no financing available so we bootstrapped our way up. Luckily we had an infrastructure that was well entrenched and knew how to work together."

During the first five years the company developed two main products, both of which are geared towards customers who have a large number of remote sites spread over a wide geographical area. The OneWay VSAT is a data broadcast receiver which can be used for news distribution and paging, while the TwoWay VSAT is used by banks, retailers, gas stations etc., and has a number of applications including inventory control, credit-card authorization, lottery transactions and prescription adjudication.

The TwoWay VSAT was introduced in 1992 and proved an instant success. Though the market was already laden with competing products, Gilat managed within two years to snatch 15 percent of the market share from rivals. By 1996, this figure had risen to 37 percent and Gilat became the No. 2 player in the field, after the US company, Hughes Network System.

Gilat's secret weapon was cost. Its outsourced production of its RF equipment to builders of mass-produced radio equipment, substantially reducing prices in the process. When the TwoWay VSAT was released onto the market, it cost just \$4,500, compared to competing products that cost at least \$9,000.

On top of this, says Gat, Gilat's products soon became synonymous with dependability. "The TwoWay VSAT is the most reliable in the industry," he boasts. "On average our product breaks down every 15 years, which is a far better rate than our competitors. Our product works and works and works."

Today the TwoWay VSAT is Gilat's biggest seller providing some 75 percent of company sales. In 1993 Gilat raised \$23m. in a public offering on Nasdaq. A second offering was held in 1995 when Gilat raised an additional \$50m. enabling it to upgrade facilities and put more effort into product development. The company also began an expansion program, opening offices in the US, France, China and Thailand.

In January 1997, Gilat acquired Florida-based Skydata Inc., which

specializes in the VSAT-paging and data broadcast industries and has an international customer base that includes AT&T Wireless, Motorola, PageMart and United Press International. The acquisition offered Gilat an additional US base of operations to help support its customers and marketing efforts in North America and also gave it an important springboard to Latin America. Through the recent merger Gilat aims to strengthen its line of VSAT-based paging products, and in particular is looking at the distribution of paging information to remote sites.

Paging is not the only area where Gilat hopes to spread its wings. While the company continues to profit from the traditional VSAT market, which is growing at a rate of 20-30 percent a year, it has also been hunting aggressively for new markets which might speed up Gilat's development.

In 1993, it began work in the field of rural telephony with three new products: DialAway (rural telephony to remote areas), FaraWay (satellite telephony), and ISAT (a voice frame relay product), which have recently been released onto the market. The new products are specifically designed for developing countries such as China and India, where conventional telephone infrastructure is poor.

Aware of the heavy competition in this area from giants such as Motorola and Loral which have invested billions in building the necessary infrastructure, Gilat is trying to keep costs down. Its products use existing geostationary satellites which, according to Gat, are more cost-effective than alternatives such as the planned Low Earth-Orbit (LEO) and geostationary satellite mobile phone systems.

"Our system will cost five to 15 cents per minute, compared to \$3 a minute for Iridium and Globalstar and our equipment costs will also be low," says Gat. "Our technology exists, it requires no infrastructure, and there are no capacity limits, all of which are weaknesses of our rivals. We offer a better price, less problems with regards to voice

quality and no limit to the number of channels we employ."

Gilat also aims to get to the market first. To do this it has opened a subsidiary in Holland, Global Village Telecom BV, which will provide services and expertise, and establish joint ventures or partnerships with local service providers.

So far, Comincom of Russia has bought a FaraWay network to provide high-quality telephone services to businesses, and Global Village Telecom recently set up a Chilean company which has been awarded the right, by the Chilean government, to provide telecommunications services to over 1,500 villages in 42 regions in that country. Some 1,500 pay phones, worth an estimated \$5m. to Gilat, have been scheduled for delivery by December 1998.

"We have competitors, but for the first time in the company's history, we are the big guys in the field," says Gat.

Gilat is also focusing on developing a new product line for satellite-delivered Internet applications. At present getting high-speed access to the Internet is expensive and difficult but Gat believes VSATs can overcome this gap. Two products recently developed are Internet Access by SkyStar Advantage, which uses a satellite link for the connection to and from the Internet backbone, and SkySurfer 1, a receiver board placed inside the PC that receives Internet information at rates much higher than are available over most current terrestrial telecommunication networks.

"This is a small field now but it's moving rapidly and we hope to be a major player in this arena," says Gat. In the US, Gilat sold SkySurfer to Rite Aid, the country's largest pharmacy chain, for each of its 4,000 drugstores. It will be used for on-line prescription verification and for broadcasting background music in the stores. Installation of the network began in 1997's last quarter.

In 1997, the new areas of paging, rural telephony and Internet access made up between 5-10% of company sales and Gat believes that by 1999 this figure will have risen to

50%. He hopes to shake up these markets in much the same way that the TwoWay VSAT did in 1992.

"We are much more market driven today," he says. "We're developing strategic business units that go after each of these markets. The products may be similar to those we're developing elsewhere in the company but we want people with specific knowledge of each field to develop them. At the end of the day we may sell the same product but it's to different people and in a different language." In the meantime, however, Gat says Gilat has no plans to neglect its traditional products, but instead seeks to gain market share by improving them.

"We still have huge opportunities to find new applications for our products," he says. "We aim to transform current manufacturing rates of tens of thousands of VSATs, to 100s of thousands in the future." To do this, however, Gilat must first of all incorporate all the growth that is now taking place at the company. Gat admits there are disadvantages to rapid growth, not the least of which is having to train additional staff, and the danger of becoming a large and unwieldy operation.

But he also believes that the influx of new staff will strengthen the company. "We can now concentrate on further areas," he says. Nor does he think that Gilat has lost any of its continuity. All five of the original founder members still work for the company, while some 45 of the first 50 staff members still contribute in some way to Gilat. Gat is thus highly optimistic about the future and determined that his firm will stay in front. "We're in a better position today than we've ever been before. The same attributes that brought us here should enable us to continue to flourish in the years ahead," he says.

Gilat's key strategy is to act big and think small. "We still maintain the spirit of a young entrepreneurial company which looks at every deal as if our whole lives depended on winning it. Once we're in a deal—you don't want to be in our competitors' shoes."

BITS & BYTES

BIRD to fund 16 projects worth \$10.5m. The Israel-US Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation has approved research and development grants worth \$10.5m. for 16 joint projects in various high-tech fields. The grants will be used to fund approved joint projects in the software, semiconductor and Internet fields. The BIRD Foundation supports R&D projects jointly run by US and Israeli companies.

Investec-98 to take place in DC. Investec-98, an Israeli high-tech conference, will take place in May 1998 in Washington, DC, as part of jubilee celebrations. It will feature leading Israeli companies and innovations. Lockheed Martin will also participate.

MediaWorks offers high-tech sales course. MediaWorks of Tel Aviv has announced an English-language high-tech sales and marketing course which will help students understand the high-tech market from the perspective of customers and suppliers, explain the various stages of the high-tech sales process and demonstrate how to use the PC to support the high-tech sales process. For more information, call (03) 613-7439.

NetWiz receives \$6m. deal. Haifa-based NetWiz Ltd., an I.L.S. Intelligent Information Systems Ltd. subsidiary and a technology leader of routing switches, has signed an agreement with a major LAN switching company, which will sell NetWiz's TurboSwitch 2010 fast desktop switch for the next two years. The deal is worth \$6m.

Oracle launches telemarketing center. Oracle Israel recently announced the opening of Oracle Direct, a telemarketing center for its customers. It will function as an information center for all its products, technologies and services, both in Israel and abroad.

WITH JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Handwritten signature or note in a box at the bottom right corner.

Klinsmann returns to Spurs

LONDON (AP) — Juergen Klinsmann returned to Tottenham yesterday to help the ailing English club avoid relegation from the Premier League.

The 33-year-old German striker, who has had a mediocre season with Italy's Sampdoria, signed a six-month contract until the end of this season with an option to extend it into the next one.

"He has seen we are in trouble, and the opportunity has come up for him to help us out for a few months," said Spurs chairman Alan Sugar. "And we have grabbed it."

Sugar also announced that former manager David Pleat had rejoined the club as director of football.

Klinsmann first joined Tottenham from French club Monaco in 1994 when Osvaldo Ardiles was the Spurs manager. He had a tremendous season, scoring 23 league and cup goals and being named Player of the Year by English soccer writers.

But Klinsmann had an escape clause in his two-year contract and infuriated Sugar by deciding to leave after only one season.

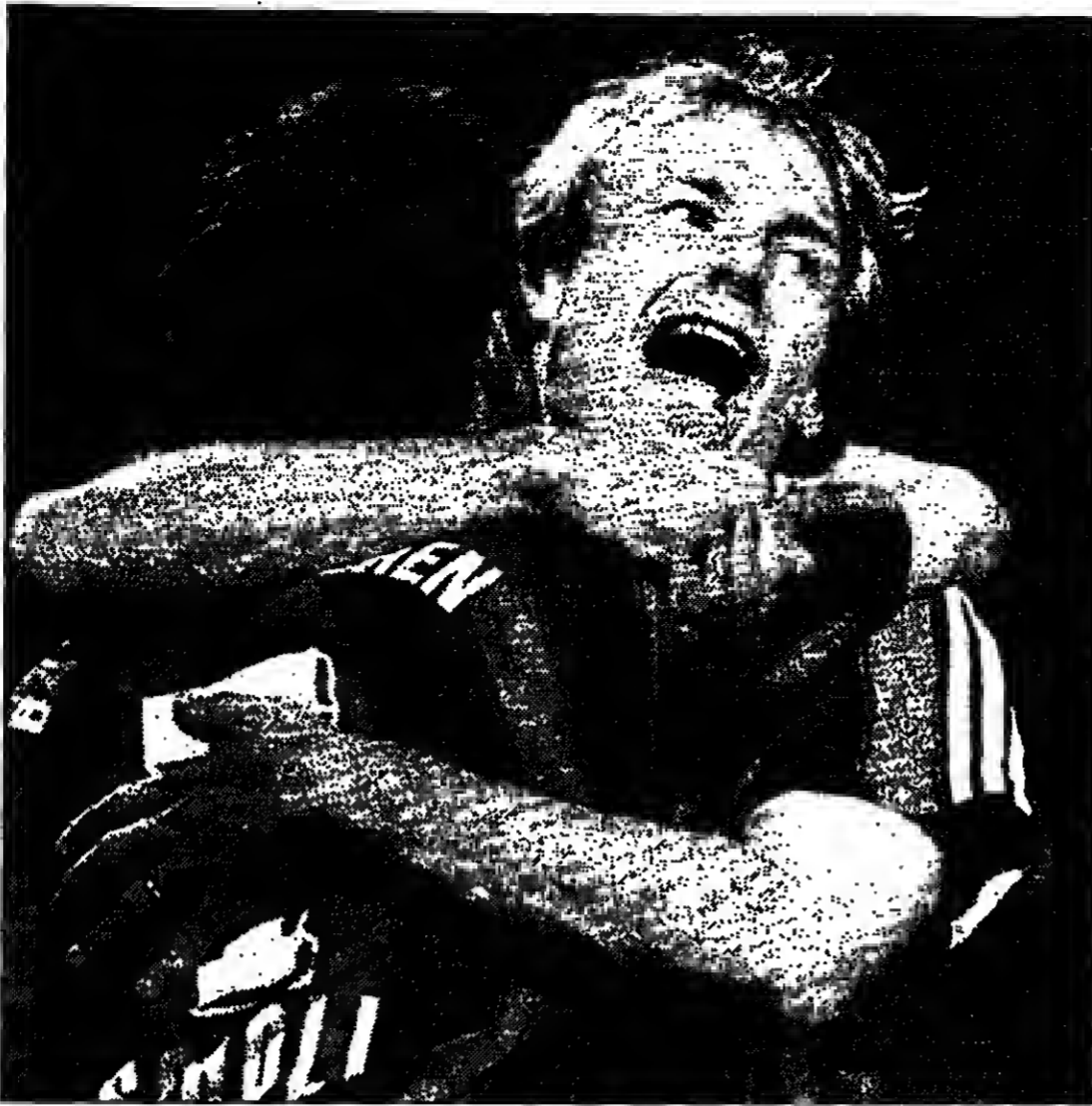
He returned to Germany and played for Bayern Munich before moving to Sampdoria in July this year.

"Alan Sugar asked me if there was a chance of helping them out," Klinsmann said on his return to White Hart Lane. "I had to think about it for a couple of days — it was really quick — and then I said 'OK, let's do it.' I had a fantastic year the season I was here and was very, very comfortable because people made it very comfortable for me. That is something you don't forget. Most of the players I still know and I can't wait to see them. I am very happy to be here again."

The feeling in Germany is that Klinsmann's move to Tottenham is his last chance of guaranteeing a place on the national team for next year's World Cup. Klinsmann has been Germany's captain.

With Spurs struggling near the foot of the Premier League standings, Klinsmann will walk straight into the starting lineup whereas, at Sampdoria, he spent a lot of time on the bench.

Initial reports said Klinsmann was moving to Tottenham on loan. But Spurs have paid £175,000 to the Italian club and he is no longer a Sampdoria player.



BACK IN THE FOLD — Juergen Klinsmann, shown here with Bayern Munich, returns to Tottenham Hotspur.

Klinsmann revealed that he had problems with Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov, who rejoined the club only last month.

"Two weeks ago, against my old club Inter Milan, the coach decided he wanted to play all three strikers," he said. "Then, the night before the game, he said on television that I would come on in the second half."

"This was very negative because if a coach decides to have ideas he has to tell me that to his face."

Sugar is counting on Klinsmann to help Tottenham climb out of the relegation zone. Spurs face Aston Villa on Friday followed by a game against north London neighbor Arsenal on Sunday.

Despite Saturday's 3-0 win over last place Barnsley, Spurs are second from last with only 19 points at the midway point of the season. When Klinsmann left at the end of the 1994-95 season, the team finished seventh.

Pleat, who was manager of Spurs for one season, 1986-87, was fired by Sheffield Wednesday last month after two years in charge.

Tottenham's current manager is Switzerland's Christian Gross, who took over last month after the resignation of Gerry Francis.

Barnsley defender banned for amphetamine use
Dean Jones, the first Premier League player to test positive for

drugs, was banned yesterday from playing for three months.

The 20-year-old Barnsley defender went before a Football Association disciplinary committee after testing positive for amphetamines during a random visit by F.A. officials.

Jones took the drug in a nightclub October 26 and said it was merely to keep him awake, not to enhance his performance.

"The FA take a very serious view of this sort of thing," said F.A. spokesman Steve Double. The ban runs from November 17, when the test results became known, until February.

Should he test positive again, he will be banned for life.

Sampras, Hingis ruled the roost in '97

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Sampras defended his turf and Martina Hingis claimed her own in 1997, but encroaching on each were players who rose from obscurity to Grand Slam prominence.

"Gugu-ga, Gugu-ga," the crowd bellowed at the French Open for champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

Women wolf-whistled at Australian Patrick Rafter on his way to the US Open title against Britain's new ace, Canadian export Greg Rusedski.

Iva Majoli of Croatia turned heads in winning the women's trophy at the French Open, the only major to elude Hingis, and head-bedecked Venus Williams shook up the sport with her sudden arrival in the US Open final.

Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman danced to the delight of his countrymen as he led a romp over the US in the Davis Cup final.

The mix of new and established players among the ATP and WTA top 10 gave the sport a needed boost while Andre Agassi stayed away most of the year on an extended honeymoon.

Sampras took advantage of Agassi's absence from the Australian Open to win a ninth Grand Slam title, and six months later won No. 10 with his fourth Wimbledon.

In winning six other tournaments, the 25-year-old Sampras became the only player in the Open era besides Jimmy Connors (1974-78) to finish No. 1 for five consecutive years.



Martina Hingis

But neither Sampras nor Hingis have won the French Open.

Fate, in the form of a balky horse, intruded and threw Hingis for a five-week fall. That's how long it took her to recover from arthroscopic knee surgery and return to play in Paris. That she reached the final after a dramatic duel against Monica Seles showed the mettle that underlies the cleverness, swiftness and efficiency of her game.

Hingis won 75 of 80 matches during the year, captured 12 titles and earned \$3.4m. She also signed a \$10m, five-year sportswear deal with Sergio Tacchini. Not bad for a 17-year-old.

Yet, Hingis' success was always shadowed by the absence of competition from Steffi Graf, who missed most of the year and three of the majors while recovering from knee surgery.

Although Hingis outshone everyone, other teenagers showed promise. Venus Williams improved with every match at the US Open before getting drubbed in her first major final. Anna Koumlikova displayed power and a knack for playing her way out of trouble.

Mirjana Lucic, 15, played impressively with a game that seems to have everything right now except experience.

With those players developing and Graf coming back, Hingis may be hard-pressed to come up with a year in 1998 like she had in 1997.

Newcastle opt to expand stadium

LONDON (Reuters) — Premier League soccer club Newcastle United confirmed yesterday they would expand their existing ground rather than fight protests against a plan to build a new stadium on one of the country's oldest parks.

Newcastle, beaten 1-0 by English champions Manchester United on Sunday, said they expected to receive local planning approval for a £42 million extension to their St. James' Park ground in Newcastle upon Tyne, northeast England.

The club, one of Britain's growing band of stock market listed soccer teams, had originally planned to spend about £90m to build a 55,000-seat stadium on Leazes Park, Newcastle's oldest common.

But that plan provoked a storm of protest, including a petition with 36,000 signatures and over 1,000 letters of complaint from groups such as English Heritage, the

Victorian Society and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

As a result, Newcastle effectively abandoned plans for a new stadium and said they would make do with the expansion, which will increase stadium capacity to 51,000 from 36,800.

"This in fact is a faster and more cost-effective solution," chairman Sir Terence Harrison said.

"Although we did our best to alleviate what the local populace believe are environmental problems, there's been a strong swell of opinion locally that really held the project up," he said.

Newcastle, runners-up in the Premier League last season, have made only a modest start this year.

Sunday's defeat against Manchester United left Newcastle stuck in mid-table, the latest disappointment in a lackluster season in which they have also been eliminated from European competition.

India beat Sri Lanka in one-day cricket

GAUHATI, India (AP) — Led by a mastery 82 not out by skipper Sachin Tendulkar, India scored a morale-boosting seven-wicket victory over world champions Sri Lanka in the first one-day international yesterday.

After restricting Sri Lanka for 172 for nine in the allotted 45 overs, Tendulkar took charge of the innings and scored 82 off 86 deliveries, inclusive of six fours.

Tendulkar and Mohammed Azharuddin put on 79 runs for the unbeaten fourth-wicket partnership. India went one-up in three-match series.

Yesterday's win should boost confidence, especially after their disastrous tour of Sharjah where they lost to England, Pakistan and the West Indies.

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Kemp lifts Cavaliers past Jazz; Walker hot in Celtics' win

CLEVELAND (AP) — Shawn Kemp had 24 points and 11 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Utah Jazz 106-101 Sunday night.

Kemp played well down the stretch after getting knocked down by Karl Malone during a battle for a rebound early in the fourth quarter. Malone's elbow hit Kemp in the face, and the Cleveland forward fell to the court in pain.

No foul was called, and Kemp returned to the game about three minutes later.

Three rookies had strong games for Cleveland. Derek Anderson scored 23 points, including 16-for-16 from the free throw line.

Point guard Brevin Knight had 15 points and seven assists, while Zydrunas Ilgaskas had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Malone led Utah with 24 points and 13 rebounds.

Celtics 99, Clippers 77

Antoine Walker scored 23 points, including a key 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter, as Boston won at home.

Walker's 3-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer gave Boston a 66-64 lead and triggered a 32-10 run that broke the game open.

The Clippers scored only 13 points in the final quarter.

Walker also grabbed 15 rebounds, but shot only 8-of-25 from the field.

Dana Barros scored 17 points for Boston, which reached .500 (12-12) for the first time since Dec. 22, 1995, when it had the same record.

Grizzlies 88, Trail Blazers 86

Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 9 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as Vancouver snapped a three-game losing streak.

Abdur-Rahim, who went 2-for-10 from the field in the first half, took the ball inside at every opportunity in the fourth quarter as Portland's big men got into foul trouble. He finished 9-of-20 from the floor and added 14 rebounds.

Isaiah Rider had 19 points and Arvydas Sabonis 18 for Portland, which made just 6-of-22 shots from the field in the final period.

Utah 106, Jazz 101

Utah 23 22 30 29-101
 Cleveland 18 29 30 29-101
 Utah 101
 17-9 10 24, Carr 5-0 0-0 10, Stockton 4-4 2-4 11, 3-0 0-2, Anderson 5-8 2-5 9, Russell 5-10 2-2 13, Corstange 1-1 0-2 2, Totals 39-79 20-99 101

CLEVELAND 106
 Anderson 27 10-0 4
 Knight 7-13 10-14 24, Ilgaskas 6-9 4-6 18, Kemp 8-16 24 11, Foye 2-6 2-2 7, 1-1 0-1 2, Scott 0-0 0-0 0, Brooks 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 32-73 38-47 106

Fouled out—Carr, Robinson—Utah 52 (Malone) 13, Cleveland 46 (Kemp) 11, Amelita—Utah 28 (Stockton, Hornacek) 6, Cleveland 21 (Knight) 7, Total fouls—Utah 30, Cleveland 23, Technicals—Hornacek, Knight, A.—16, 17B

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	17	8	.680	—
Orlando	16	10	.615	½
New York	15	11	.577	2½
New Jersey	13	11	.543	3½
Boston	12	12	.500	4½
Washington	13	14	.481	5
Philadelphia	6	18	.250	10½
Central Division				
Atlanta	19	7	.731	—
Indiana	17	8	.680	½
Chicago	16	9	.640	1½
Detroit	15	9	.625	2
Minnesota	12	13	.480	6½
Toronto	12	15	.444	7½
Denver	3	23	.115	16
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Houston	14	8	.636	—
San Antonio	15	10	.600	½
Utah	15	10	.600	½
Minnesota	11	13	.458	4
Vancouver	10	17	.370	6½
Dallas	5	22	.200	10½
Denver	2	27	.083	13
Pacific Division				
Seattle	21	5	.808	—
LA Lakers	20	6	.769	1
Phoenix	15	8	.652	4½
Portland	14	10	.583	6
Sacramento	9	17	.346	12
Golden State	5	18	.217	16½
LA Clippers	5	22	.185	16½



ROAD BLOCK — Grizzlies' Antonio Daniels is stopped by Portland's Alvin Williams in second-quarter action. Vancouver edged the Trail Blazers 88-86.

Getting to be a Hasek

Sabres shut out Rangers behind Hasek's 5th shutout in 16 games.

NEW YORK (AP) — Dominik Hasek continued his recent shutout surge, making 33 saves to lead the Buffalo Sabres over the New York Rangers 2-0 Sunday night.

Hasek, who has five shutouts in his last 16 games, was especially sharp in the second period when the Rangers outshot the Sabres 16-7. Two of Hasek's saves came on point-blank shots by Wayne Gretzky on a breakthrough.

Sharks 4, Mighty Ducks 2

John MacLean scored twice and Jeff Friesen had three assists, leading San Jose to a road win in Sunday's only other scheduled game.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division						
Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	23	10	1	47	186	67
Philadelphia	16	13	7	47	181	78
Washington	16	13	7	39	163	96
N.Y. Islanders	15	15	3	35	97	92
N.Y. Rangers	10	16	2	32	96	108
Florida	12	19	5	29	88	105
Tampa Bay	7	21	6	20	62	105
Northeast Division						
Pittsburgh	18	11	4	44	160	88
Montreal	19	14	4	42	167	90
Boston	16	14	6	38	91	92
Ottawa	15	17	4	34	88	86
Carolina	13	18	5	31	92	100
Buffalo	12	16	6	30	83	93
Western Conference						
Central Division						
Dallas	20	9	7	47	118	91
Detroit	21	12	4	46	109	86
St. Louis	14	16	6	34	97	102
Minnesota	12	17	5	29	78	93
Chicago	11	17	7	29	77	86
Pacific Division						
Colorado	18	9	11	47	118	93
Los Angeles	14	14	6	34	101	97
San Jose	12	18	6	30	82	111
Anaheim	11	17	8	30	83	103
Edmonton	11	20	5	27	103	122
Vancouver	11	20	7	27	93	111
Calgary	10	20	7	27	93	111

NFL box scores

Buffalo 21, N.Y. Rangers 0 — Dominik Hasek made 33 saves to lead the Sabres to a 2-0 victory over the Rangers. Wayne Gretzky scored twice. Jeff Friesen had three assists. John MacLean scored twice.

San Jose 4, Mighty Ducks 2 — John MacLean scored twice and Jeff Friesen had three assists, leading San Jose to a road win.

Portland 88, Vancouver 86 — Alvin Williams stopped Grizzlies' Antonio Daniels in second-quarter action. Vancouver edged the Trail Blazers 88-86.

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Portland 88, Vancouver 86 — Alvin Williams stopped Grizzlies' Antonio Daniels in second-quarter action. Vancouver edged the Trail Blazers 88-86.

Chicago 27, Cleveland 20 — Matt Prater had a 37-yard field goal in the fourth quarter to give the Bears a 27-20 victory over the Browns.

San Diego 34, Denver 24 — LaDainian Tomlinson had 108 yards and three touchdowns, leading the Chargers to a 34-24 victory over the Broncos.

San Francisco 34, Oakland 20 — Shaun Alexander had 168 yards and two touchdowns, leading the 49ers to a 34-20 victory over the Raiders.

Seattle 34, Tampa Bay 14 — Shaun Alexander had 168 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Seahawks to a 34-14 victory over the Buccaneers.

Arizona 27, Kansas City 20 — Kurt Warner had 275 yards and three touchdowns, leading the Cardinals to a 27-20 victory over the Chiefs.

Green Bay 14, Minnesota 10 — Brett Favre had 145 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Packers to a 14-10 victory over the Vikings.

Carolina 34, Atlanta 14 — Steve Watson had 168 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Panthers to a 34-14 victory over the Falcons.

Washington 34, Dallas 20 — Clinton Portis had 168 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Redskins to a 34-20 victory over the Cowboys.

New York Giants 20, New England 14 — Matt Ryan had 168 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Giants to a 20-14 victory over the Patriots.

Indianapolis 34, Pittsburgh 20 — Peyton Manning had 168 yards and two touchdowns, leading the Colts to a 34-20 victory over the Steelers.

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New York Giants 20, New England Patriots

CRITICS' CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Neil Simon is great when it's cold outside because his wise comedies warm you. The Hadassah Center Stage Theater presents his somewhat autobiographical Brighton Beach Memoirs about growing up in a Jewish family during the Depression. Kate Brody directs a cast of young actors from the Hamagshimim aliya movement. Tonight and Thursday at 8 and tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. at Mercat Hamagshimim. Info and tickets: (02) 561-9165.

HANUKKA

HELEN KAYE

Festivals kick off in Haifa with a star-studded lineup including mime Hanoch Rosenne, Hani Nahmias, Dana Dvornin, Efrat Reiten and all the kids' favorite stars from the Children's Channel. Songs galore, glitzy umbrellas, color, excitement and kids. Tonight at the Haifa Sports Stadium at 6 p.m., tomorrow at 4:15 and 7:15 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Nicholas McGegan leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA in the most popular excerpts from Handel's Judas Maccabeus, including "See the Conquering Hero Comes" chorus and Messiah with the "Hallelujah" chorus to open the 1997 Liturgica Festival in a program that begins with Paul Ben-Haim's Bein Hadassim. Tonight (8:30) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

The International Symphony Orchestra class of '97 opens its concerts with Dvorak's eighth symphony, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and Richard Strauss's Till Eulenspiegel tonight at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and tomorrow at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem. Friday (4) at the YMCA hall in Jerusalem, Bruckner's fourth symphony replaces the Strauss and Mussorgsky works. The conductor is Jacek Kasprzyk.



Mime Hanoch Rosenne helps to kick off the annual Festival event, in Haifa tonight.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ FEVER PITCH — Based on British writer Nick Hornby's autobiographical best-seller, this is a genuinely delightful love story, though the romance in question isn't of the usual boy-meets-girl sort. While the film does have its boy, Paul (Colin Firth), and girl, Sarah (Ruth Gemmill), and they do meet and get together early on, the movie's real concern — the source of its sweetly madcap energy — is Paul's other, life-long love. He's a man obsessed with a soccer club, Arsenal, and the film takes triangular shape as Sarah battles with the Genners for Paul's lasting affections. For all the casual pleasure it gives, the movie (directed with an exacting, almost anthropological eye by David Evans and adapted by Hornby for the screen) evolves as a surprisingly wide and often quite cutting examination of what it means to feel passionate about something, anything, past the point of logic or good sense. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parrotel guidance suggested.)

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Life on the Screen
-computers and the Internet
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Science and Nature

CABLE

ITV 3 (3)

Broadcasts begin after coverage of the Knesset sitting ends
16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Amores

15:30 Pink Panther
16:00 The Mask
16:30 Zapatos
16:50 A New Evening
17:34 Zap
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

16:30 Appro
19:00 News

ETV 2 (2)

15:30 Echo Point
15:30 News Writing
16:30 Directions
17:00 Ombudsman - children program in Arabic

CHANNEL 2

8:15 Today's Programs
9:00 Reshet Morning
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pabio
11:00 The Little Circle

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine
7:30 Love Story with Shosh Shy
8:00 Sunset Beach
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless

JORDANTV

14:00 Holy Koran
14:10 Sandokan
14:30 CRO
15:00 Skippy

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 No One Could Predict Her (1995) - A woman who was raped in 1976 by a young man who later became a doctor.

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion
11:00 Tour de France
12:00 Alpine Skiing

BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6:30 World Review '97
7:30 Hard Talk (pt)

NBC EUROPE

8:00 Travel Xpress
17:00 The Ticker
17:30 CBS Nightly News

STAR PLUS

6:00 Hindi programs
7:00 Oprah Winfrey
8:00 E! TV

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:00 A Taste of the Caribbean
8:30 Travelogue (pt)

CHANNEL 6

12:45 A Healthy Body
13:15 The Nature of Things: The Invaders
14:00 A New World, Saving the Planet

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
6:05 Make Believe
6:35 Sonic
10:00 David the Gnome

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Star Knight
(Spanish) (1995) - sci-fi fantasy about a spaceship which is mistaken for medieval knights by medieval knights.

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PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 7 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

Opera
12:45 A Healthy Body
13:15 The Nature of Things: The Invaders
14:00 A New World, Saving the Planet

8:00 Travel Xpress
17:00 The Ticker
17:30 CBS Nightly News
22:00 Star Knight

6:00 Hindi programs
7:00 Oprah Winfrey
8:00 E! TV
8:30 Family Ties

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WEATHER: Map of Israel with weather icons and forecasts for various cities.

AROUND THE WORLD: Table with columns for city, temperature, and weather conditions.

WINNING CARDS: Advertisement for a daily chance drawing with a list of winning numbers.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Avoid showing fright when catching the ball (7); 5 To succeed, it must follow her in first (7); 9 Largely in royal fashion (7); 10 A sifter becoming a performer (7); 11 Give two pounds, nothing more, for an old master (9); 12 Marks or pounds? (6); 13 Sound director made fun of (5); 15 Make sure as sure can be (9); 17 Existing fashion? (4,5); 19 State of birth (5); 22 The one to right of them (5)

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

QUICK CROSSWORD: Smaller crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

- ACROSS: 1 Moneybag (5); 4 Forded (5); 10 Artist (7); 11 Custom (5); 12 Perfect (5); 13 Mesh (7); 15 Irritable (4); 17 Shiber (5); 19 Each (5); 22 Lose colour (4); 23 Property (7); 25 Tremble (5); 29 Ascend (5); 30 Expelled (7); 31 Representative (5); 32 Compressive (5)

MOVIES

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE Cop Land 9:30 - Two Documentaries by John Huston

7:15, 10 - 187 - Conspiracy Theory - Tomorrow Never Dies 4:30, 7:15, 10 - Murder in the Mind (Maithe) 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

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Inside

Complete NFL box scores

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Klinsmann returns to Spurs

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Ronaldo wins 'Golden Ball'

PARIS (AP) — Brazilian striker Ronaldo followed up his selection as FIFA's 1996 world player of the year by being named yesterday as Europe's best player of 1997.

The Inter Milan star was a runaway winner in voting for *France Football* magazine's annual "Golden Ball" award.

The 21-year-old Ronaldo is the youngest player and the first South American ever to win the European award.

Ronaldo garnered 222 points in the balloting, with Yugoslavia's Predrag Mijatovic of Real Madrid a distant second with 72. France's Zinedine Zidane of Juventus was third with 63 points.

Lewis, Holyfield agree to fight

LONDON (Reuters) — Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield have agreed to fight for the undisputed world heavyweight title in Las Vegas on April 25, Lewis' manager Frank Maloney said yesterday.

Maloney said the unification fight between Britain's WBC champion Lewis and the 35-year-old WBA and IBF champion Holyfield would carry a purse of between \$40-50 million.

Both fighters have long expressed their desire to meet in a winner-takes-all fight.

It would be the first time the three heavyweight belts have been united since Riddick Bowe held them all in 1992.

Basketball State Cup draw

Maccabi Tel Aviv will face Hapoel Tel Aviv and Galil Elyon will play Hapoel Holon in the semifinals of basketball's State Cup.

The draw ensures a Tel Aviv derby despite Hapoel Tel Aviv's second Division status. Hapoel knocked out Hapoel Jerusalem, the cup holders the past two seasons, in the two-leg quarterfinal on Sunday night. The semifinals will be contested on March 13 next year in a doubleheader at Yad Eliahu.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER: Wimbledon 0, Arsenal 0 (match abandoned after floodlight failure in 46th minute).

Playoff-bound Lions send Jets packing

Detroit's Sanders surpasses 2,000 yards in 13-10 win over Parcels & Co.

NEW YORK (AP) — The Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings made the NFL playoffs Sunday and the Lions, thanks greatly to Barry Sanders, put in Miami and New England.

Sanders ran for 164 yards in the second half to get his 2,000 yards for the season, the third player to do it.

And the Washington Redskins and New York Jets were left on the outside looking in, in part because of two questionable play calls by Jets coaches that led to interceptions, plus a questionable call by the officials on the second.

After Minnesota beat Indianapolis 39-28 to clinch one National Conference wild-card spot, the Lions beat the Jets 13-10 to get the second, knocking out both the Redskins and the Jets. That means four of the NFC's six playoff teams are from the Central, the second time in four years that has happened.

That set up these matchups for next weekend's wild-card round: On Saturday, Minnesota (9-7) is at the New York Giants (10-5) and Jacksonville (11-5) is at Denver (12-4) in a replay of last year's huge playoff upset by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

On Sunday, it will be the loser of last night's New England-Miami game at the winner, followed by Detroit (9-7) at Tampa Bay (10-6). But this week was dramatic enough, headed by the Lions-Jets game at the Silverdome.

The Lions knew Washington had beaten Philadelphia 35-32 and they needed to win to make the playoffs; the Jets already knew they needed a victory to make it. There was also the subplot of Sanders' attempt for 2,000 yards.

Sanders had just 23 yards entering the final play of the third quarter, when he burst free for 47 yards. A few plays later, he scored from 15 yards and finished with 184 yards, including a 53-yard run at the 2-minute warning that put the game away. He finished the season at 2,053 yards, passing OJ Simpson's 2,003, second only to Eric Dickerson's 2,105.

"We developed into a patient offense," Sanders said. "We don't always have the best of starts."

The game was interrupted in the fourth quarter when Detroit line-backer Reggie Brown was taken unconscious from the field with what was reported as a head injury.

Brown, who needed to be resuscitated on the field, later regained consciousness and was able to move his arms and legs.

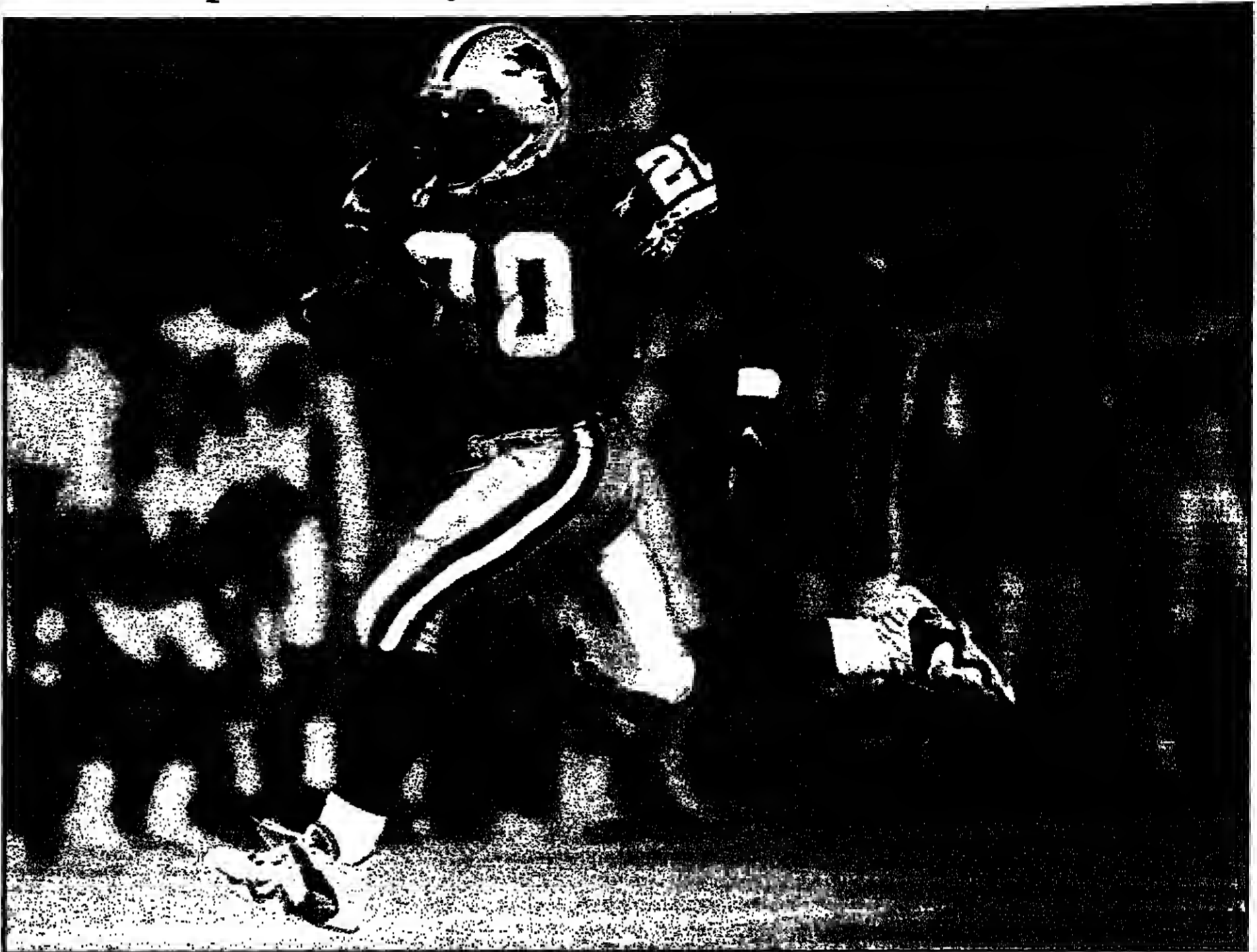
His injury in the fourth quarter delayed play for 17 minutes as medical personnel worked to revive him, silencing a raucous Silverdome crowd.

As he was about to be driven off the field in an ambulance, each team huddled in prayer. Some players had tears in their eyes.

He underwent neck surgery for a spinal injury yesterday. His pro career is most likely finished.

The Jets took a 10-0 lead before the Lions rallied. The Jets threatened twice, but backup quarterback Ray Lucas threw a third-down interception when they were in field goal range. Then rookie Leon Johnson's option pass on first-and-goal at the Detroit 9 was intercepted by Bryant Westbrook.

Replays showed Westbrook juggling the ball as he fell out of the end zone, but the officials ruled it



ALL ALONE - Lions RB Barry Sanders breaks free for a 53-yard run on his last rush of the regular season to bring his total to 2,053.

(Reuters)

After starting 0-10, the Indianapolis Colts beat Green Bay, the Jets and Miami, all teams with winning records.

Following the loss, Indianapolis's head coach Lindy Infante was fired. The Colts finished 3-13 for the worst record in the NFL.

Also, Tampa Bay beat Chicago 31-15, ensuring a home game in the first round of the playoffs. The Giants, who already clinched the NFC East, became the first team to go unbeaten in the division by beating Dallas 20-7. The defeat guaranteed that the Cowboys' would have their first 10-loss season since 1969.

Kansas City, which already locked up home field in the American Conference, beat New Orleans 25-13. Tennessee beat Pittsburgh 16-6, but the Pittsburgh Steelers wrapped up the AFC Central and a first-round bye by keeping the margin of defeat under 64.

Cincinnati continued its late-season run under Boomer Esiason by beating Baltimore 16-14.

Broncos 38, Chargers 3

One week after one of his worst games, John Elway had four touchdown passes for the Broncos. The Chargers (4-12) finished with an eight-game losing streak.

Oilers 16, Steelers 6

Most Tennessee (8-8) got the only meaningful thing from this game, a 500 season. The Oilers ran for 156 yards and became the third team to top 100 yards rushing this season against Pittsburgh (11-5), which has a bye next weekend.

Cardinals 29, Falcons 26

Jake Plummer threw a 1-yard TD pass to Larry Centers with 5 seconds left for host Arizona (4-12). The Falcons (7-9) had a five-game winning streak broken.

Jaguars 20, Raiders 9

Host Oakland (4-12) concluded its worst season since going 1-13 in 1962, the year before Al Davis took charge of the operation. Mark Brunell had touchdown passes to Keenan McCardell and Dajon Jones for the Jaguars who

finished at 11-5.

Seahawks 38, 49ers 9

Warren Moon, in his 20th season of pro football and 14th in the NFL, completed 16 of 25 passes for 232 yards and four touchdowns, giving him 3,678 yards passing for the season to

break Dave Krieg's record of 3,671.

Visiting San Francisco's Gary Anderson, who is in his 16th NFL season, made three field goals and has now made 385 in his career, breaking the record of 383 held by Nick Lowery.

Saturday's results: Green Bay 31, Buffalo 21; St. Louis 30, Carolina 18. Sunday's results: Cincinnati 16, Baltimore 14; Tampa Bay 31, Chicago 15; Minnesota 39, Indianapolis 28; Kansas City 25, New Orleans 13; New York Giants 20, Dallas 7; Washington 35, Philadelphia 32; Tennessee 16, Pittsburgh 6; Arizona 29, Atlanta 24; Jacksonville 20, Oakland 9; Detroit 13, New York Jets 10; Denver 38, San Diego 3; Seattle 24, San Francisco 7.

Last night: New England at Miami.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
y-New England	9	6	0	.600	355	277
y-Miami	9	6	0	.600	327	313
N.Y. Jets	9	7	0	.563	348	287
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	255	367
Indianapolis Central	3	13	0	.188	318	481

Central

W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
x-Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	372	307
y-Jacksonville	11	5	0	.688	394	318
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	333	310
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	355	405
Baltimore	6	9	1	.406	326	345

West

W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
x-Kansas City	13	3	0	.813	375	232
y-Denver	12	4	0	.750	472	287
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	365	362
Oakland	4	12	0	.250	324	419
San Diego	4	12	0	.250	266	425

NFL Rushers-Season

Year	G	No	Yards	
Eric Dickerson, Rams	1984	15	389	2,105
Barry Sanders, Lions	1997	16	335	2,053
O.J. Simpson, Bills	1973	14	332	2,003
Earl Campbell, Oilers	1980	16	375	1,534
Barry Sanders, Lions	1994	16	331	1,583
Jim Brown, Browns	1963	14	291	1,863
Walter Payton, Bears	1977	14	339	1,852
Eric Dickerson, Rams	1986	16	404	1,821
O.J. Simpson, Bills	1975	14	329	1,817
Eric Dickerson, Rams	1983	16	390	1,808

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
x-N.Y. Giants	10	5	1	.656	387	265
Washington	8	7	1	.531	322	289
Philadelphia	6	9	1	.406	317	372
Dallas	6	10	0	.375	304	314
Arizona	4	12	0	.250	283	379

Central

W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
x-Green Bay	13	3	0	.813	422	282
y-Tampa Bay	10	6	0	.625	299	263
y-Detroit	9	7	0	.563	379	306
y-Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	354	359
Chicago	4	12	0	.250	263	421

West

W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
x-San Francisco	13	3	0	.813	375	265
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	265	314
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	320	341
New Orleans	6	10	0	.375	337	327
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313	299	359

x-win division title y-clinched playoff berth

Leave temptation alone

Jerry Jones shouldn't run the Cowboys from the sidelines

IRVING, Texas — Dallas Cowboy owner Jerry Jones climbed down from his luxury box at halftime, a quarter earlier than usual, and assumed the position. He stood on the sideline, hands on both knees. He sounded like a coach. He looked like a coach. He acted like a coach.

And pretty soon, the Cowboys will need a coach.

Barry Switzer assured his pending departure when the Cowboys faxed in the final game of a miserable 6-10 season. They wanted to be anywhere but at a half-empty Texas Stadium Sunday for a December exhibition game with a New York Giant team anxious to rub a division title in their faces. They couldn't move the ball, couldn't block and couldn't tackle in the first half. They were booted into the locker room down 20-0 at the break, and that was enough to get Jones out of his seat. A troubled team and a beleaguered coach, locked in a free fall all season, finally went splat.

"I'm personally responsible for what's happened," Switzer said. "I've always said it starts with the head coach and goes down from there."

And then Switzer opened the door to resigning before being pushed out when he said: "I don't know whether I'd want to be the coach next year."

Massive changes are on the way, and Jones will likely aim high when he swings his ax. But, unfortunately, not high enough.

MY CALL

By SHAUN POWELL

The problems of the Cowboys aren't just confined to Switzer on down. Jones needs to assess his own role in the demise of the Cowboys.

He must understand that a return to greatness won't happen until he becomes an owner who stays in his suite.

Even the task of finding Switzer's replacement hinges on Jones' willingness to reduce his involvement in football matters. The logical and most attractive choice is George Seifert, a restless ex-49er with rings. However, Seifert's boss with the 49ers confined himself to cheering and writing checks. And any other A-list candidate confronted by the Cowboys will want a major say in personnel matters, which is exactly what chased Jimmy Johnson out of town.

Jones continues to insist that the construction of a three-time Super Bowl winner was a double-J.J. affair. He considers himself an expert judge of talent and a general manager at heart, if not by trade. There are no plans to relegate that responsibility to the next coach. And Jones isn't hiring a GM, either. So the touches that need to be made to a team that still has its Super Bowl core will be applied by

a heavy-handed owner.

The Cowboys still have a capable quarterback, although Troy Aikman, no Switzer fan himself, is merely functional when he doesn't have a running game. They have Emmitt Smith, although there are doubts about whether he will see many more Pro Bowls. And there is Michael Irvin, still more dangerous on the field than off it. Even though Aikman passed for 73 yards and Emmitt averaged 3.1 yards per carry and Irvin caught just two harmless balls against the Giants, this is a nucleus that isn't ready to be shattered.

But the offensive line is aging and must resort to clubbing and cheap wrestling tactics. The defensive line is only adequate and the secondary is vulnerable to giving up the big catch. Giants quarterback Danny Kanell never saw so many open receivers as he did Sunday.

And Jones is going to fix this? "I will do a thorough job, and I will do my homework," he said.

Jones' task is to repair a team ravaged by free agency and decay. Except there's one problem. Jones is best at buying players, yet he's hampered by the salary cap. He can only be so creative in the offseason. With several players locked into pricey, long-term contracts, Jones won't be able to chase free agents with Deion Sanders money.

But the revamping of the Cowboys doesn't begin or end with Barry Switzer. It starts right at the top. (Newsday)



EMERGENCY AID - A hopeful Dallas Cowboys fan asks Mr. Claus to lend a hand to team renewal.

(AP)

Handwritten Arabic text: "فكرة ممتازة" (Great idea)